

Thoughtful Classroom Lesson Ideas

Grade 1

Language Arts

- Inductive Writing – Butterflies
- Problem/Solution
- Folk Tale/Fable Carousel Brainstorm
- Folktale Study Task Rotation
- Poetry

Science

- Weather Changes Task Rotation

Social Studies

- Using Maps Carousel Brainstorm

First Grade Language Arts

Inductive Writing - Butterflies

General Objective: ELA Standard 1 and 4, MST Standard 4

Prerequisite Skills: Write a list, classify, adjectives (or “describing words”), topic sentence and main idea.

Learning Outcome: This can be an introduction or mid-unit lesson. The students generate words from different questions about butterflies. Then they sort and group the words. Next they determine labels for each group of words. Finally, they write a main idea sentence about each group or words.

Activities: This can be done in whole group or small groups. Ask each question and have the children write one word responses on post-its. Post-its are placed on table. Double up duplicate post-its. Then have them sort the words into groups, discussing why words can or cannot go together. Have the children decide on a label for each group of words. Finally, have them determine a main idea sentence about each group of words.

Allow 2-4 minutes per question:

- #1. How would you describe butterflies?
 - #2. What do you know about butterflies?
 - #3. What feelings do you have about butterflies?
- * Help with spelling if they need it.

Evaluation: Listen to conversation, observe participation, and evaluate contributions of ideas by each student.

First Grade

Problem/Solution Lesson

Prerequisite: Understand concepts of problem and solution.

Characteristics: What makes a problem?
Multiple ways to solve a problem.

Activities:

- Mix 'n Match cards – use laminated problem/solution cards
 - paper cut on finger / go to nurse
 - friend crying / give warm fuzzy
 - torn book page / scotch tape together
 - untied shoelace / tied shoe lace

- Carousel Brainstorm
 - Use four problem situations and four groups of students
 - Have them discuss and write a solution for each problem (use different color marker for each group)
 - Kids rotate
 - All solutions shared at end of whole group
 - Some suggested scenarios:
 - Four children want to be on the computer at the same time (only two can use it at the same time)
 - Child wants to have a birthday party – mom gets sick
 - Birthday is on the same day as Thanksgiving
 - Cutting in line
 - All swings are being used except one; two friends want to use it

Books to use for problem/solution:

- *Milo and the Magic Stone*
- *Big Al*
- *Strega Nona*
- *Miss Nelson is Missing*
- *Peter's Chair*
- *Charlie Needs a Cloak*

First Grade Language Arts

Folk Tale/Fable Carousel Brainstorm

The Mouse and the Lion (or another text that you have multiple copies of), in which students can speculate about the part of the world for the setting, and students can think about a lesson we can learn from the story.

Questions:

- Who is a main character in the story? Why is he or she important?
- Where do you think the story happens? Why do you think so?
- What is the most important thing that happens in the story? Why do you think so?
- What lesson can we learn from this story?
- What do you think could happen next in the story?
- If you were the author would you have a different ending? How would you end the story?

**First Grade
Language Arts**

Folktale Study

Objective: Students will explore folktales as examples of traditions within cultures. After listening to two versions of the same folktale, students will do the following.

<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Mastery</u></p> <p>Choose one folktale. List the characters.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Interpersonal</u></p> <p>Relate to own experience:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Make a text-to-self connection (each student creates own on post-it).</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Understanding</u></p> <p>Compare/contrast two versions of the same folktale. “How are they the same?” “How are they different?”</p> <p>Relate folktale to an area of the world.</p> <p>Identify area of the world.</p> <p>Give evidence: “I know this comes from _____ because _____.”</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Self-Expressive</u></p> <p>Create a new title.</p>

Procedure:

Students will be grouped in 5 groups.

Teacher will select a process keeper and recorder for each group.

Students will rotate through each station and record on chart paper.

First Grade Language Arts

Poetry Carousel Brainstorm

- What is the title of this poem?
Who is the main character of this poem?
- What is this poem about? or
What is the main point of the poem?
- How does this poem make you feel? Have you ever felt this way? When?
- What is one of the writing techniques the author uses to express the message of the poem?
- Why do you think the author wrote this poem?
- If you were the author, what would you do to change this poem?

**First Grade
Science**

Weather Changes

<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Mastery</u></p> <p>Summarize the clothing you would wear in each of the four seasons.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Interpersonal</u></p> <p>What is your favorite season? Why? How does it make you feel? What are your favorite things to do?</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Understanding</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Why wouldn't a student go swimming in an outdoor pool in winter?	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Self-Expressive</u></p> <p>How is _____ (season) like school?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">or</p> <p>Draw an apple tree in the four seasons.</p>

First Grade Social Studies

Using Maps Carousel Brainstorm

Use a different map, appropriate to the specific question, at each station.

- Find a country on this map. Write the name of the country you find.
- What would people use this map for? Why do you think so?
- Which part of this country would you like to visit? Why?
- This is a map of New Paltz. If you were the map maker, what would you add to this map or what would you take off? Why?
- Pick one of the geometric shapes. Find a country or continent that has a similar shape. Write the name of your shape and the country or continent that looks like it.