

Find an Animal! Find a Book!

Lesson Plan by Linda Hunter and Beth Obenschain

Curriculum:

1. Categorize or identify books and other materials into fiction or nonfiction.
2. Identify genre of a book by using print concepts.

Attachments:

Bibliography of book titles in which the main character is an animal

File of animal photographs to add animals to the movie for future lessons.

Blank Venn diagram

Other Materials:

1. Copies of a nonfiction and a fiction book about each animal used for the current lesson.
For example, use a version of *The Three Bears* with a nonfiction book about bears, such as Bears by N. S. Barrett (Franklin Watts, c. 1998).
2. Computer software such as Kidspiration to create Venn diagram.
3. Graphing software
4. Reference sources for animal research: encyclopedias (print or online), library search software

Instructional Sequence:

Lesson Session 1:

1. Lesson Introduction: students assemble to watch the movie. Ask students to note any differences they see between fiction and nonfiction views. The movie shows clips of “real” animals in the zoo or the natural world as well as illustrations from picture books.
2. After viewing the movie, teacher leads a discussion by asking questions such as:
 - a. How can you tell if the animals you saw in the movie are real?
 - b. What proof do you have from what you saw in the movie that an animal is alive? (listen for student responses such as “movement” or “eating”).

- c. Do you know how the animal communicates?
 - d. Can you identify a behavior that matches your idea of what this animal can do?
 - e. Can you name 1 or more characteristics of an animal you viewed that might help others to identify the animal (skin covering, color, size, shape)?
 - f. Are the animals dressed in human clothing?
 - g. Do they talk?
 - h. Do they have other human behaviors?
3. Teacher continues the discussion to compare the real animal with the fictionalized animal with questions such as:
- a. Do the illustrations seem realistic?
 - b. Are there photographs in place of drawings or other art media?
 - c. Are there charts, graphs, captions? (These features usually accompany nonfiction texts).
 - d. Is there conversation? (indicates fiction text)
4. Continue questioning with suggestions such as:
- a. Can you identify the animal in one of these stories by a characteristic you know about the real animal? Choose one animal you saw in the movie and tell what you know about the real animal that you could see in the picture (Ostriches and zebra live in the same habitat, for example).
 - b. Do you see a behavior that you know does not belong to a real animal (animals are playing with balloons).

Lesson Session 2:

1. Read aloud 2 books to the group; one from the fiction genre and another nonfiction book which contains the same animal. Using these examples, lead a discussion with students to differentiate between fiction and nonfiction text. Look at a book that has the same kind of animal as the main character. How are the fiction and nonfiction animals alike/different? Look at their body coverings, habitat, behaviors, etc.
2. Have the students work in pairs to find both a fiction and nonfiction book on the same topic (animal). They will use the library's search software to find these items and retrieve from the shelf. Allow them to look at the books to compare/contrast the animals portrayed in each.
3. Students will create a Venn diagram to show the results of their comparisons.

Suggestions for Further Activities:

1. Students will create their own fiction story about an animal. They will begin by reading/gathering information about the animal's characteristics, habits, etc. and use these facts while creating their own story.
2. Students can take a picture of a backyard animal or pet and find information about this animal. They can import the picture to a document and write an informational paragraph about the animal.
3. Students will select an attribute such as height, weight, or lifespan of their animal and graph the results.

List of Picture Books with Animal Main Character

Title	Author	Illustrator	Publisher	C. Date	Animal
Sir Small and the dragonfly	O'Connor, Jane	O'Brien, John	Random House	1988	Dragonfly
Rainbow fish to the rescue	Pfister, Marcus		North-South Books	1995	Fish
The wolf's chicken stew	Kasza, Keiko		G. P. Putnam's Sons	1987	Wolf
The Greedy Python	Buckley, Richard	Carle, Eric	Picture Book Studio	1985	Python Snake
Jimmy's boa bounces back	Noble, Trinkahakes	Kellogg, Steven	Dial Books for Young Readers	1984	Boa Snake
Zella Zack and Zodiac	Peet, Bill		Houghton Mifflin	1986	Ostrich
Frog and Toad Together	Lobel, Arnold		Harper & Row	1971	Frog or toad
Cricter	Ungerer, Tomi		Harper & Row	1958	Boa constrictor
Lyle finds his mother	Waber, Bernard		Houghton Mifflin	1974	Crocodile
Yertle the turtle	Dr. Seuss		Random House	1950	Turtle
Curious George	Rey, H. A.		Houghton Mifflin	1969, 1941	Monkey
Stellaluna	Cannon, Janell		Harcourt Brace & Company	1993	Bat
Babar the king	DeBrunhoff, Jean		Random House	1986	Elephant
The day the teacher went bananas	Howe, James	Hoban, Lillian	Puffin Unicorn	1984	Gorilla
The Berenstain Bears and the truth	Berenstain, Stan & Jan`		Random House	1983	Bears
The Web Files	Palatini, Margie	Egielski, Richard	Hyperion Books for Children	2001	Duck