

THE COTERIE

no small characters.

THEME/CENTRAL IDEAS LESSON PLAN Grades K-3

Created for use in your classroom after seeing
Elephant and Piggie's "We are in a Play!" at The Coterie
Developed by The Coterie Education Director Amanda Kibler and Education Assistant Michelle Staub

Common Core Reading Standards:

Meets MO & KS CCR Standard R.K-5.2 Determine central ideas or themes of a text and analyze their development; summarize the key supporting details and ideas.

Student Objectives:

Students will be able to:

- Recreate and retell key moments from *Elephant and Piggie's "We are in a Play!"*.
- Collaborate in small groups to recall messages from the story.
- Summarize key supporting details and ideas.

Assessments:

- Post- share Q&A: Students will defend their choices with evidence from the selected passage.
- Individual reflection: Students will reflect on what they have learned with given reflection questions

Lesson:

Introduction

- Draw to Recall (5-10 minutes): After seeing The Coterie's production of *Elephant and Piggie's "We are in a Play!"*, ask students to draw their favorite part of the show. Who was in the scene? What did the set look like? What were they doing?

Building Activities

- Share, Share, Trade (10-15 minutes): After time is called, ask students to find a partner. One partner at a time shares his/her drawing with his/her partner. As they share, they should point out the setting and characters. The partner responds to the artwork by using statements that describe their feelings and what about the art made them feel that way (i.e. colors,

the expressions on faces, shapes). Then the other partner shares their drawing in the same way.

- **2nd & 3rd Grade:** After both partners have shared, they trade drawings and find a new partner. Now they go through the same process, but describing another artist's work. When describing, they are an impartial judge relaying the facts about the artwork. It is the job of the second person to provide an emotional response to the piece.
- *Teacher Note: An important aspect of art is the audience's response. Allow students to express a range of responses, both positive and negative. By framing the response as "It makes me feel _____," takes the pressure off the quality of artwork and puts the weight onto the emotions it can conjure.*
- *Teacher-Led Story Drama (40-50 minutes):* Students find their own imagination station in the room (a spot for them to act out the story without touching anyone/anything and without them being touched). Ask them to lie down and close their eyes and imagine that they were at home playing with their friend when suddenly a group of squirrels joined them and started singing and narrating all the fun they were having. Now students open their eyes and begin acting out the story as you tell it. Begin telling the major highlights of *Elephant and Piggie* "*We are in a Play!*" as the students act it out. Occasionally freeze the action and ask the students a question, tapping them on the shoulder to hear the answer from their character's point of view. (Appendix A has a sample of how to tell the story)
 - *Sample questions:* How did you feel about going to the fancy pool party? Why did you feel that way? What was your reaction when your friend broke your toy? How did your reaction change when it was fixed?

Wrap-up

- *Collaborative Discussion (5 minutes):* Together the class will reflect on what they have learned.
 - What happened when we entered the world of Elephant and Piggie? How did you feel when different events were happening? Would you like being in a world that bursts into song all the time?
 - What did you learn at the end of the story? What did the Elephant and Piggie learn? Did anyone else learn a different lesson?
 - **3rd grade specific:** What happened in *Elephant and Piggie's* "*We are in a Play!*" to help you find that lesson?

APPENDIX A

A sample teacher-led story drama based on *Elephant and Piggie's "We're in a Play!"*

The italicized questions can be answered verbally or physically, for example a frozen "statue" created with the student's body.

Everyone lie down in your own Imagination Station and close your eyes. Imagine that you, like Elephant and Piggie, are in your home playing with your friend. You are playing such fun games that you don't even notice an audience is watching you! And then, a group of squirrel singers joins you and begins to narrate all of the exciting adventures that you and your friend go through.

Everyone open your eyes and look around. This place isn't like any other place you've ever been. Look out all around you. *What do you see?*

Walk over to the edge of the stage and wave to your audience. Give your friend a high five! You have an audience! You are in a play! *What do you think? How does that make you feel? What do you want?*

You and your friend can't decide what fun things to do first. Should you skip (let them skip), play ping pong (pantomime ping pong), or wear silly hats (pantomime again). You decide to do all three at the same time! *Show me what this looks like.*

Then, an invitation arrives. It is for a party! *Do you want to go? What should you wear?*

You can't decide which kind of party to prepare for. It could be a fancy party (*What would that look like?*) a pool party (*get on your scuba gear!*) or a costume party. *Time to get ready! Get on your fancy pool costumes!*

Once there, we have a dance party! (students dance) Let's have a slow motion dance party. (slow motion dancing) Now let's do some fast forward dancing! (speed it up!)

Great moves everyone! Now teach a neighbor one of your dance moves!

Then, your friend announces they have to leave. *How do you feel? Show me what that looks like.*

When your friend comes back, they brought you your favorite snack! *What did your friend bring you? Ooo yummm great idea! (repeat)*

After eating up all your snacks, you decide to share a brand new, never been seen before, toy with your friend! *What does your toy do? What does it look like?*

You show your friend how it works, and after playing with it for a while, it breaks! *Can you show me how that makes you feel in a big dramatic way? Show me without sound. Now add quiet sounds. (different speeds etc.)*

Your friend tells you that they are very sorry. You forgive them and decide that no matter what, you'll always be friends! *What do you and your friend do to celebrate this moment? Hug? Dance? High Five? Celebrate!*