

THE COTERIE

no small characters.

THEME/CENTRAL IDEAS LESSON PLAN Grades PreK-2

Created for use in your classroom before seeing
Beat Bugs at The Coterie

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Student Objectives:

Students will be able to:

- Create and share ideas about how to care for the environment.
- Communicate the impact of humans on the local environment.

Assessments:

- Post- share Q&A: Students will describe their choices and articulate how this will create change.

Lesson:

Introduction

- *Brainstorm (5 minutes)*: When you go outside, what do you see in nature? What can happen that can harm nature?

Building Activities

- *Building the Backyard (10 minutes)*: We talked about a lot of different things we see in nature. I want us to use our bodies to build the outdoors. Recall an idea they had during the brainstorm (i.e. Someone said they see trees when they go outside.) Can you stand up and show me how you can use your body to become a tree?

- *Teacher Note: Go through this activity creating as many natural elements that they brainstormed as you would like.*

We also talked about how nature can be harmed. Recall an idea they had during the brainstorm (i.e. Let me see that there is trash on the ground.)

- *Teacher Note: Go through this activity creating about three or four harmful elements. These will be used in the next section. It is most effective if your voice and face express how terrible it is when the environment is harmed.*

- *Saving the Backyard (15 minutes)*: Students find their own imagination station in the room (a spot for them to create new ideas without touching anyone/anything and without them being touched). I loved the way we created the outdoors, but now it is so sad because it's being destroyed. I

bet we could come up with some ideas about how to fix it! First thing we talked about was when people throw trash on the ground. What can we do if we find trash on the ground? Get one answer and then have the class act like they are doing that (i.e. If someone says “pick it up,” Let’s all pretend to pick up trash and put it in the trash can or recycle bin.). Gather and perform a few answers for each problem you explored earlier. Now that we have cleaned up, let me see you look like trees and flowers and bugs and animals again, but now you are very happy because your habitat is safer to live in.

Wrap-up

- *Collaborative Discussion (5 minutes)*: Together the class will reflect on what they have learned.
 - How did we choose to help the environment? Is it something we can do?
 - What other ideas do you have about how we can help save bugs and animals? How about plants and water?

APPENDIX A

A sample teacher-led story drama based on *Beat Bugs*

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 are a small bug in the backyard. *What kind of bug are you? How do you move?*

Stand up and show me how your bug moves around. *If you have a high energy group, this part can be in slow motion.*

You are playing such fun bug games that you don’t even notice some new bugs coming right up to you. They are the Beat Bugs and they are on their way to go on an adventure and ask you to come along. You agree and dance along with them. *How does your bug dance? You can play music at this part if your students would respond well to it!*

Suddenly everyone stops (*motion students to stop*). Everyone look around. This place isn’t like any other place you’ve ever been. They’re calling it “Strawberry Fields.” Look around. *What do you see?*

Walk over to one of the strawberries and take a bite. *What do you think? How does that make you feel? What does it taste like?*

All of a sudden, the miner birds come over and start pecking at the strawberries. They’re destroying them! *What do you say to them to make them stop?*

They refuse to stop and instead call their boss, the stinkbug Mean Mr. Mustard. *Let me see that your bug thinks he’s mean and he smells bad.*

He tells you that he’s going to destroy Strawberry Fields and the environment. *What do you think about that? Is this something you want him to do?*

You and the Beat Bugs decide to put on a concert to stop Mr. Mustard’s Destruction of Happiness Plant. Walter is teaching you the dance and it’s really complicated! *What does the dance look like? Let me see that you’re getting tired because you’ve danced so much.*

Now it’s time for the show! *How do you feel? Are you nervous? Excited?*

But right in the middle of the performance, Mean Mr. Mustard stops your show. All of the Beat Bugs turn to you and ask you to say something to him. *How do you feel? Let me see a statue that shows me how you feel. What do you say to make him stop? What is everyone’s reaction to that?*

Congratulations! You stopped Mean Mr. Mustard from destroying Strawberry Fields. *Show me a statue about how you feel about saving Strawberry Fields.*

You and the Beat Bugs decide to celebrate! *Show me how you celebrate.*

The end.