

Directed reading lesson: *Dear Mr. Blueberry*

This plan is a directed reading/thinking activity for the book *Dear Mr. Blueberry* with questioning and a follow-up written activity that focuses on the story elements. Another activity involves discussing facts about whales in the story and, then, finding other facts about whales that are used for a writing activity.

A lesson plan for grades 2–3 English Language Arts

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Learning outcomes

- Using the book, *Dear Mr. Blueberry*, guide reading and comprehension through teacher modeling and questioning.
- After reading, discuss the story parts made up of main characters, their descriptions, the setting, the problem, and the solution. Have the students work on a story plan, filling in the information for the parts of the story.
- Discuss the facts in the book about whales. Assist students as they look into other books for further information about whales. Assist them in choosing and writing five facts about whales to be put on a whale outline.

Teacher planning

TIME REQUIRED FOR LESSON

2 Hours

MATERIALS/RESOURCES

- Multiple copies of the book, *Dear Mr. Blueberry*
- Copies of the [story plans](#) for students to fill in
- Resources from the media center about whales (at a low reading level, if possible)
- Copies of a [whale outline](#) for students' writing

Pre-activities

- Discuss letters that the students may write or receive. Ask students, “Who were you writing to? Who were the letters from? What was the reason for writing the letters? What type of form was used?”
- Explain that the book they will be reading is made up of a series of letters between a little girl named Emily and her teacher, Mr. Blueberry, over a summer vacation.
- Vocabulary that needs to be introduced: spurt, shrimplike, crunched-up, forcibly, and

Learn more

RELATED PAGES

- [Let's hunt for vivid vocabulary!](#): This activity will be used to encourage students to focus on using an enriched vocabulary. During an oral reading of the book *A Bad Case of Stripes*, the students will search and identify various nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, dialogue tags, and transition words.
- [Dear Peter Rabbit](#): Students will identify formal language and sentence structures in friendly letters. They will use similar formal language and style to create friendly letters to other story book characters.
- [Whole language reading: Pumpkin pie baking activity](#): A whole language literature-based reading lesson that culminates in a cooking extension activity.

RELATED TOPICS

- Learn more about [directed reading](#), [language arts](#), [letters](#), [read-alouds](#), [reading](#),

Activities

DIRECTED READING/THINKING ACTIVITY

1. Read the first four letters as students follow along silently. Discuss these questions:

- What is the problem Emily has?
- What does she want her teacher to do?
- What does Mr. Blueberry tell her about whales?
- How does Emily feel about her whale?
- What do you think will happen?

Listen to students read these pages.

2. Read the next four letters while students follow along. Discuss the following questions:

- Did your prediction happen?
 - What did Emily see her whale do?
 - What new things does Mr. Blueberry tell her about whales?
 - How does Emily feed her whale?
 - Is Emily showing disappointment so far?
 - What will happen next?
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Listen to students read these four letters.

3. Read the last three letters to students as they follow along. Discuss the following questions:

- Did your prediction happen?
- Why did Emily feel sad?
- How does Mr. Blueberry try to help Emily feel better?
- What happens to Arthur?
- Did Emily really have a whale in her pond?
- What do you think Emily learned?
- What do you think Mr. Blueberry learned?

Listen to students read these last letters.

STORY ANALYSIS

1. Discuss these parts of the story: main characters, their descriptions, the setting, the problem, and the solution. Show the students where these will be put on the storyplan worksheet.
2. Discuss what “illustration” means, and have them complete the worksheet, giving assistance as needed.

WRITING ACTIVITY

1. Discuss the factual details about whales that Mr. Blueberry wrote to Emily. Guide the children in finding other facts about whales from easy-to-read sources. Have them choose five facts about whales to write on their whale outline.

Assessment

and its parts.

- The research into whales will give students some practice at an early level into the skills needed to find and write about facts. Students should have a completed whale outline with five sentences giving factual information about whales.

• Common Core State Standards

◦ ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS (2010)

▪ Reading: Literature

▪ Grade 2

- 2.RL.1 Ask and answer such questions as who, what, where, when, why, and how to demonstrate understanding of key details in a text.
- 2.RL.3 Describe how characters in a story respond to major events and challenges.

▪ Grade 3

- 3.RL.1 Ask and answer questions to demonstrate understanding of a text, referring explicitly to the text as the basis for the answers.
- 3.RL.3 Describe characters in a story (e.g., their traits, motivations, or feelings) and explain how their actions contribute to the sequence of events.

North Carolina curriculum alignment

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS (2004)

Grade 2

- **Goal 2:** The learner will develop and apply strategies and skills to comprehend text that is read, heard, and viewed.
 - **Objective 2.01:** Read and comprehend both narrative and expository text appropriate for grade two by:
 - determining purpose (reader's and author's).
 - making predictions.
 - asking questions.
 - locating information for specific reasons/purposes.
 - recognizing and applying text structure.
 - comprehending and evaluating author's decisions and word choice.
 - determining fact and opinion.
 - recognizing and comprehending figurative language.
 - making inferences and drawing conclusions.
 - **Objective 2.04:** Pose possible how, why, and what if questions to understand and/or interpret text.
- **Goal 3:** The learner will make connections through the use of oral language, written language, and media and technology.
 - **Objective 3.02:** Connect and compare information within and across selections (fiction, nonfiction, poetry and drama) to experience and knowledge.
 - **Objective 3.04:** Increase oral and written vocabulary by listening, discussing, and composing texts when responding to literature that is read and heard. (e.g., read aloud by teacher, literature circles, interest groups, book clubs).