



Lake Central Education Foundation Round 27

Applications Due Friday, October 16, 2009

Title: Make a Wish

Project Director: Jane Doe

Signature:

School(s): Lake Central Elementary

Grade Level(s): 3

Subject Area(s): Language Arts

Number of Students: 25

Amount Requested: \$315.00

Purpose: Using contemporary children's literature as a springboard, this unit will introduce students to fables, mythology, and other forms of folklore. Related activities will build vocabulary, comprehension, writing, grammar, and speaking skills. In addition, students will learn a life lesson about setting and attaining personal goals.

What activities will the students complete?

- Listen as teacher reads *Sylvester and the Magic Pebble* aloud; identify characters, setting, plot, theme.
- Read a variety of fables; recognize lesson or moral and reason specific animals are used as characters.
- In groups of four, create and present a skit on a famous fable. Each character can only use one sentence type (statement, command, question, exclamation).
- Write original fables and illustrate; use direct and indirect quotations.
- Read *The Chocolate Touch*; analyze story elements, answer comprehension questions, and define vocabulary in daily literacy groups. Locate direct and indirect quotations.
- Compare and contrast main characters of the two books using a large Venn diagram.
- Read the myth of King Midas; compare and contrast with *The Chocolate Touch*.
- Listen to a variety of Greek myths from an audio cassette of *D'Aulaire's Book of Greek Myths*; identify characters, setting, plot, and theme.

- Compare and contrast myths and fables. Explore the larger category of folklore and design a wall chart listing the categories (legend, fairy tale, etc.) and well-known examples.
- Write a story about a wish gone wrong.
- Analyze differences between a wish and a goal. Make a plan to achieve a personal goal.

Sample

In a meta-analysis of current research, identifying similarities and differences is recognized as one of the most effective teaching strategies with an average effect size of 1.61 (.80 is considered large). In this project, the strategy is used repeatedly by comparing the two novels to fables and myths, comparing and contrasting entire stories and their characters, and looking for similarities and differences in forms of folklore. (Marzano, Pickering and Pollock. *Classroom Instruction That Works: Research-Based Strategies for Increasing Student Achievement.*)

A variety of third-grade standards are covered through these activities, including vocabulary development, comprehension and analysis of literary text, writing applications, English language conventions, and listening and speaking.

Detailed Budget:

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| Sylvester and the Magic Pebble (hardcover) | \$ 14.00 |
| The Chocolate Touch (soft cover), 30 @ \$6.00 | \$180.00 |
| Aesop's Fables (Stories for Young Children) | \$ 12.00 |
| A Guide for Using the Chocolate Touch in the Classroom | \$ 9.00 |
| D'Aulaire's Book of Greek Myths (audio cassette) | \$ 40.00 |
| Cassette/CD Player | <u>\$ 60.00</u> |
| Total | \$315.00 |

All items will be ordered together with free shipping from Amazon.

When will the project take place? March/April 2010

How long will the project last? 4 weeks

- Week 1 – read *Sylvester and the Magic Pebble*; explore fables
- Week 2 – write fables; begin reading *The Chocolate Touch*
- Week 3 – continue reading *The Chocolate Touch*; explore mythology
- Week 4 – explore folklore; write wish stories; learn about goal-setting

Can you use this project in the future without additional cost? Yes, I will be able to use this project year after year without any additional cost.

Summary (one sentence): Third graders will use two novels as a springboard to the study of fables and myths.