

The Wonderful Thing About Hiccups

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Story Summary: A child embarks on a hilarious adventure with a little sister and a hippo, and explains library rules along the way.

Learn about the author and find more activities and resources at www.cecemeng.com/.

Pre-Reading: Tell the students to be very quiet. Wait until the room is still and then pretend to hiccup. Say, “Oh, no! What is that?” Discuss hiccups. Ask, “How many of you have had the hiccups before?” Discuss what hiccups sounds like and feel like. (*activate prior knowledge*)

Discussion Questions:

1. Why did the hiccups sound loud in the library? (*literal*)
2. How would you feel if you got hiccups during library story time? (*evaluative*)
3. What happened when they found the hippo? (*inferential*)
4. What would happen if the books got wet in the sprinklers? (*evaluative*)
5. What would it be like to eat flying ice cream? (*evaluative*)
6. Why did the hippo have a bellyache? (*literal*)
7. What do you think the librarian thought when she saw the library books? (*inferential, evaluative*)
8. What is wonderful about having your own library card? (*literal, evaluative*)

Shared Reading Technique: Reread the story and have students clap their hands vertically (to show a hippo closing its mouth,) every time you read the word “hippo.” (*listening comprehension, prediction*)

“Surprise Your Hiccups Away” Class Book:

Materials: Sheet of paper per student, construction paper, tape, scissors, crayons; for students in **pre-k-grade 1**, print “A _____ surprises the hiccups away!” on the bottom of the sheet of paper

Procedure:

1. Tell students to think of a big surprise that would surprise the hiccups away.
2. **Pre-K- grade 1:** Have students write the name of the big surprise on the blank line on the paper and illustrate a picture of the surprise in the middle of their paper. **Grades 2-3:** Write “A ____surprises the hiccups away!” on the board. Have students copy the sentence onto their paper, inserting the name of their big surprise. Have students illustrate a picture of the surprise in the middle of their paper.
3. When their picture is complete, help students cut out a piece of construction paper that just covers the picture. Tape the top of the construction paper to the top of the picture to make a flap covering the illustration. The students can lift the flap and see the surprise.

4. Bind the pictures together in a class book titled, “Surprise Your Hiccups Away!”

Closure: Ask students to share one rule about taking care of library books. Older students might visit the library with a younger buddy class to read them a book and teach them about the library rules.

Extensions

“The Wonderful Thing About Maps” Mapping Activity:

Pre-K-K Materials: Flannel board, felt pieces –library, tree, fence, ice cream cone, hippo
Procedure:

1. Do a picture walk through *THE WONDERFUL THING ABOUT HICCUPS* and list the places visited by the children and the hippo.
2. Put the felt library, tree, fence, and ice cream cone on the flannel board. Ask the students where the hippo started. Put hippo in tree and walk him through the story.
3. Move the felt places around and ask students to tell you where thing are on the board. Encourage students to use prepositions such as: under, over, beneath, near, on, in, etc.
4. Let students take turns putting the hippo on the board and use prepositions to describe its placement.

Grades 1-3 Materials: chalk board or overhead, paper and pencils per student

Procedure:

1. Do a picture walk through *THE WONDERFUL THING ABOUT HICCUPS* and list the places that the children and the hippo visit.
2. Ask students to draw a map of the children’s adventure. Remind students that there is no single correct map to correspond to the story.
3. While students are working, ask them questions about the directions on their paper, such as, “What is to the left of the tree?”
4. If appropriate, have students add a compass to their drawing. Ask students questions about their maps using the terms: North, South, East, West.
5. **Grades 1-2:** Have students write 1-2 sentences about their maps. **Grades 2-3:** Have students write where the children went on their adventure.

“The Wonderful Thing About Libraries” Library Activity: Make two charts. On the first one, write, “The wonderful thing about libraries is ...” On the second, write, “Libraries are not as wonderful when...” As classes visit the library, read *THE WONDERFUL THING ABOUT HICCUPS*. Discuss what makes libraries wonderful, (books on different subjects, quiet place to read, etc.) and what would make them not as wonderful, (loud voices, missing books, wet books, etc.) Record one or two answers from each class on each chart, and post charts in library. On the next round of visits, share the finished chart with students. Note: After a few classes, the most obvious answers may be already recorded on the chart. Encourage children to give specific comments, e.g. “It’s wonderful because I can learn about hiccups in the library” or “it’s not wonderful when someone’s little brother scribbles on the pages of a book.”