Strega Nona Lesson Plan | Scholastic.com

I use *Strega Nona* in a Tomie dePaola author study. I also use it to teach about characters and cause and effect. My students love Big Anthony and how he gets in trouble. They automatically chant along with the magic pasta words.

Students read a wide range of print and non-print texts to build an understanding of texts, of themselves, and of the cultures of the United States and the world; to acquire new information; to respond to the needs and demands of society and the workplace; and for personal fulfillment.

Materials

- Strega Nona by Tomie dePaola

Set Up and Prepare
Find Calabria, Italy on a map. Ask how many students like pasta.

Directions

Read the story with students and discuss the cause and effect situations.

The students could use Kidspiration on the computer to complete a character web and/or a cause and effect web.

Lesson Extensions

The students could learn more about Italy using the resource links.

Create a class podcast about Strega Nona using different students for the different character voices. On a Mac, use GarageBand to create a podcast. On a PC use Audacity for recording. Each student records a part of Strega Nona. Have them create a chorus verse from the magic pasta chant. After the voices are recorded, add a beat or music to the podcast. Enhance the podcast by adding photos, scanned drawings or KidPix drawings. If a computer isn't available, a recording could be made with a tape recorder or with an iPod and a voice recorder attached. The podcast can be shared online through iWeb on a Mac or shared with other classes through the school server. Consult with your technology support person about how to do this.

Related Resources
Teaching with Favorite Tomie dePaola Books:
Engaging Activities That Build Essential Reading and Writing Skills and Explore the Themes in These Popular Books by Rebecca DeAngelis Callan, Laurie DeAngelis
Strega Nona video
Italy - www.gayleberthiaume.com/FGO/italy.html
GarageBand video tutorial - www.apple.com/ilife/tutorials/garageband/gb3-1.html
Audacity for Windows or Mac - http://audacity.sourceforge.net/download/
Audacity Tutorials - http://audacity.sourceforge.net/help/tutorials

- Subjects:

Cause and Effect, Plot, Character, Setting, Communication and the Internet

- Skills:

Cause and Effect

- Duration:

2 Class Periods