

Quick as a Cricket Lesson Plan | Scholastic.com

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I teach *Quick as a Cricket* in the beginning of the year to have the students get to know one another and learn about similes. My students really enjoyed writing similes about themselves and then illustrating the similes. I also find that they use similes more in their writing after this lesson.

Students will define simile and identify similes in writing. They will also create mini-books describing themselves using similes.

Materials

- *Quick as a Cricket* by Audrey Wood
- two sheets of white construction paper for each student
- staples
- colored pencils, markers, and/or crayons

Set Up and Prepare

Before reading the story, discuss with your students about how to describe people using character traits. Then write the definition of character traits on the board. Character Traits: descriptive adjectives like happy or strong that tell us the specific qualities of the character. Next, choose a character from a book that you have just read to your class or a popular cartoon and have the students brainstorm character traits that describe the main character. Create a chart of the different character traits. Before reading the book, instruct them to listen for different character traits that describe the main character in the story.

Directions

After you're finished reading, ask your students to tell you the main character's character traits. Then reread one of the pages and explain to students that the author uses a special way to describe each character trait. He compares that trait to something else using the words like or as. Explain to students that this is called a *simile*. The author took a character trait like "strong" and compared it to something that is strong. For example: I'm as strong as an ox.

Ask students to think of five character traits that describe themselves and compare them to something else using a simile. Give another example at this time if you think your students need one. After students finish their five similes, they will create mini booklets by folding two pieces of white construction paper in half and stapling them along the seam. After making a cover page, student will write one simile per page and illustrate them. I then have my students share their books with each other. It is a good way to get to know one another in the beginning of the year.

Supporting All Learners

Some students might have difficulty coming up with five character traits about themselves. You can generate a class list of general character traits that students can refer to during this activity.

Instead of creating books you can have the students create an All About Me Poster. They can write different similes about themselves on the poster board and then create illustrations. Parents would really enjoy seeing something like this hanging in the hallway at Back To School Night.

- Subjects:

Plot, Character, Setting, Parts of Speech, Descriptive Essay, Expressive Writing, Early Writing

- Skills:

Reading Comprehension, Descriptive Writing

- Duration:

2 Class Periods