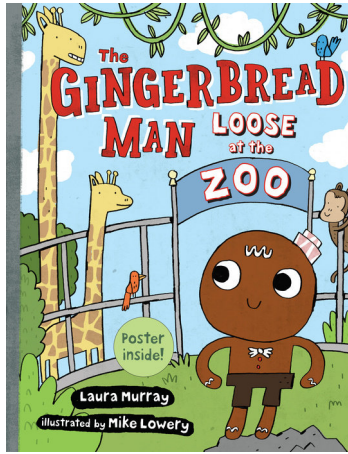


Gingerbread Man Loose at the Zoo
By Laura Murray, illustrated by Mike Lowery
A Mentor Text Lesson Plan by Marcie Flinchum Atkins



Writing Skills Focus:

Research
Writing nonfiction
Word choice in writing

Target Audience: K-2

Objectives:

Students will identify the components of riddles used in the text.

Students will brainstorm and write their own animal riddles (individually, in a small group, and/or in a whole group setting) using the text as a model.

Students will demonstrate verbs as action words through drama, illustration, and writing.

Standards:

Virginia Standards of Learning:

K.12

1.13, a, b, c, d

2.12 a,c

2.14

Standards are listed here for referencing by number in your lesson plans. For link to complete standards, go to:

http://www.doe.virginia.gov/testing/sol/standards_docs/english/2010/stds_all_english.pdf

Common Core:Kindergarten:

ELA W.7, W.8
 ELA L.1f, L.5d

1st Grade:

ELA W.7, W.8
 ELA L.1f, L.1j, L.5d

2nd Grade:

ELA W.5, W.7
 ELA L.1e, L.5a, b

Standards are listed here for referencing by number in your lesson plans. For link to complete standards, go to: http://www.corestandards.org/assets/CCSSI_ELA%20Standards.pdf

Text:

Gingerbread Man Loose at the Zoo by Laura Murray, illustrated by Mike Lowery

Other Materials Needed:

Website with animal facts

Examples:

National Geographic for Kids <http://kids.nationalgeographic.com/>

Animals nonfiction books or magazines with good pictures

Examples:

Zoo Books

National Geographic for Kids

Ranger Rick

Lesson:**Setting the purpose:**

The purpose of this lesson is to use GINGERBREAD MAN LOOSE AT THE ZOO as a mentor text for writing creatively about animals. Just as Murray has written riddles that allow the reader to participate in the story by guessing the animals, students can learn to reveal clues about animals through riddles. Additionally, this text is a good example of using strong verbs to show action. Students will develop their vocabulary and begin using some of these verbs in their drama, illustrations, and hopefully, their writing.

Utilizing the Mentor Text**Writing Animal Riddles**

1. Read GINGERBREAD MAN LOOSE AT THE ZOO pointing out the riddles in the book as you read. Have students guess which animal the riddle is about.
2. Write one or two of the riddles from the text on chart paper or on a Smartboard as examples.
3. Brainstorm things the author mentions in the riddles.

Examples:

Giraffe riddle

- description of the giraffe
- looks like
- what she eats
- baby

Monkey riddle

- how he acts
- adjectives that describe
- what he eats

4. Create a riddle together. Show students a photograph of an animal. Create a riddle together as a group. Before writing the riddle, brainstorm things to include. Make a list of descriptions, what they eat, how they act, etc. Then write it in the form of a riddle. It can rhyme, but it is easier to not worry about the rhyme.

Transferring the Skill to Student Writing

1. Students can choose their own animal to write a riddle about. An optional brainstorming sheet is provided at the back of this lesson. Possible resources are listed in "Other Materials Needed" section.

Differentiation suggestions:

- a. Students can work individually, if they are ready for that challenge.
 - b. Students can work in pairs or small groups.
 - c. Students can work with an adult and dictate.
2. Share their riddles with the group.

Using Strong Verbs in Writing

1. Go on a hunt through the book for vivid verbs (action words) or have them already written on cards. Explain to students that Ms. Murray could have just said the animals moved or another word that wasn't very specific. Instead she used very specific words to show how the animals acted.

Examples:

hooting	zoomed
howling	scurry
growling	screech
wiggle	snuffled
jiggle	shuffled
slumped	

2. Have students act out these words and discuss what animals might take these actions.

Transferring the Skill to Student Writing

1. Each student can pick an animal. Write a sentence using one of the verbs (can be oral or written). Or they can use a different verb that is appropriate for their animals.
2. Draw a picture of the animal and write the sentence using the verb to go with it.

Extension Activities/Spin-Off Lesson:

Research a habitat of some of the animals mentioned in the book using pictures and sample texts.

Other Resources:

Laura Murray's website
www.lauramurraybooks.com

Mike Lowery's website
<http://mikelowery.com/>

Name _____

Draw a picture of your animal.

Write down clues about your animal:

What it eats _____

Looks like _____

How it acts _____

Where it lives _____

Other facts _____



Animal Riddle
