

Rabbit and Bear Paws – Sacred Seven Series: COURAGE, BEAR

Complimentary Read Aloud/Writing – Lesson Plan

Recommended Grades and Curriculum Connections

Pre K-Grade 3: Language Strands; Reading, Writing, Oral Communication (Listening and Speaking), Arts 1- 3 Periods.

Background Knowledge for Teachers

The Seven Grandfather Teachings are comparable to Character Education Values and Virtues. The Seven Grandfather Teachings are: Courage, Wisdom, Honesty, Truth, Humility, Respect and Love. The teaching of Courage is associated with the **BEAR** - The Bear provides many lessons in the way it lives, but courage is the most important teaching it offers. Though gentle by nature, the ferociousness of a mother Bear when one of her cubs is approached is the true definition of courage. To have the mental and moral strength to overcome fears that prevent us from living our true spirit as human beings is a great challenge that must be met with the same vigor and intensity as a mother Bear protecting her cub. Living of the heart and living of the spirit is difficult, but the Bear's example shows us how to face any danger to achieve these goals (Solomon, 2011).

Pre-Reading - Teacher Talk

Let's look at the front cover. What's happening in this picture? Let's read the back cover...what does the word MIMIC mean? **Copy**, that's right. The boys are going to **copy** the bears, they are going to **mimic** the bears. What does the word **courage** mean? Yes, to be brave, or to try new things. So the boys are going to show how they have **courage** by trying new things, while copying, or mimicking the bears.

Building Prior Knowledge - Teacher Talk:

Let's brainstorm before we read, and write our answers down on a mind map, chart, chalkboard, etc. What do we already know about bears? We know the characters are going to copy or mimic the bears, so what are some things that bears do? What do they eat? Where do they sleep?

Read Aloud/ During Reading:

Read the story aloud, asking questions to guide student thinking. Read the story at the circle area/carpet, or place under the document camera to view on the interactive white board. Use the Predicting Strategy- What do you think will happen next? Read the book again, and ask students to join in, as you complete a shared reading read aloud together.

After Reading:

Ask students to turn to their partner and retell the events of the story in sequence. Have them talk about the funniest part, and act out two or three of the scenarios with their partners.

Follow Up Writing Activities/Extensions:

Have students write one of the following; A retell of their favorite part; Additional mimicking scenarios; or, an alternate ending to the story. Students can complete this writing activity through a graphic novel computer program, or in their writing books. Have students research bears and extend this lesson into hibernation, seasons, etc. Have students share their ideas with the class or in small groups.

Art Activities to Accompany this Picture Book:

Students can create a collage or bulletin board display using the Adventure of Rabbit and Bear Paws images from the website, www.rabbitandbearpaws.com.

Evaluation And Assessment Opportunities:

During oral discussion, use a checklist to confirm which students are on task, and how effectively they are communicating with and listening to each other. Use a writing rubric for writing tasks appropriate for your student's grade level.

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Recommended Grades and Curriculum Connections

Pre K-Grade 3: Language Strands; Reading, Writing, Oral Communication (Listening and Speaking), Arts, Science, 1- 3 Periods.

Background Knowledge for Teachers

The Seven Grandfather Teachings are comparable to Character Education Values and Virtues. The Seven Grandfather Teachings are: Courage, Wisdom, Honesty, Truth, Humility, Respect and Love. The teaching of Wisdom is associated with the **BEAVER** - The building of a community is entirely dependent on gifts given to each member by the creator and how these gifts are used. The Beaver's example of using his sharp teeth for cutting trees and branches to build his dams and lodges expresses this teaching. If he did not use his teeth, the teeth would continue to grow until they became useless, ultimately making it impossible for him to sustain himself. The same can be said for human beings. One's spirit will grow weak if it is not fulfilling its use. When used properly however, these gifts contribute to the development of a peaceful and healthy community (Solomon, 2011).

Pre-Reading - Teacher Talk:

Let's look at the front cover. What's happening in this picture? The beavers are building a beaver dam, making a home....beavers live in dams...Let's read the back cover...what does it mean, to make a WISE decision? That's right, to make a good choice, or to make the right choice.

Building Prior Knowledge - Teacher Talk:

Let's brainstorm before we read, and write our answers down on a mind map, chart, chalkboard, etc. What do we already know about beavers? What do they eat? Where do they live? Why do they have flat tails? What is interesting about their teeth?

Read Aloud/ During Reading:

Read the story aloud, asking questions to guide student thinking. Read the story at the circle area/carpet, or place under the document camera to view on the interactive white board. Use the Predicting Strategy- What do you think will happen next? Read the book again, and ask students to join in, as you complete a shared reading read aloud together.

After Reading:

Ask students to turn to their partner and retell the events of the story in sequence. Have them talk about their favorite part, and act out two or three of the scenarios with their partners.

Follow Up Writing Activities/Extensions:

Have students write one of the following: A retell of their favorite part; or, an alternate ending to the story. Students can complete this writing activity through a graphic novel computer program, or in their writing books. Have students' research beavers and extend this lesson into structures in science, wildlife food chains, etc. Have students share their ideas with the class or in small groups.

Art Activities to Accompany this Picture Book:

Students can create a beaver and beaver dam with play dough and little wooden sticks.

Evaluation And Assessment Opportunities:

During oral discussion and art activity, use a checklist to confirm which students are on task, and how effectively they are communicating with and listening to each other. Use a writing rubric for writing tasks appropriate for your student's grade level.

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Complimentary Read Aloud/Writing – Lesson Plan

Recommended Grades and Curriculum Connections

Pre K-Grade 3:

Language Strands; Reading, Writing, Oral Communication (Listening and Speaking), Arts, Social Studies, 1- 3 Periods.

Background Knowledge for Teachers

The Seven Grandfather Teachings are comparable to Character Education Values and Virtues. The Seven Grandfather Teachings are: Courage, Wisdom, Honesty, Truth, Humility, Respect and Love. The teaching of Wisdom is associated with the **SABE** - Long ago, there was a giant called Kitch-Sabe. Kitch-Sabe walked among the people to remind them to be honest to the laws of the creator and honest to each other. The highest honor that could be bestowed upon an individual was the saying "There walks an honest man. He can be trusted." To be truly honest was to keep the promises one made to the Creator, to others and to oneself. The Elders would say, "Never try to be someone else; live true to your spirit, be honest to yourself and accept who you are the way the Creator made you." (Solomon, 2011).

Pre-Reading - Teacher Talk:

Let's look at the front cover. Look at these BIG feet. What do they remind you of? Let's read the back cover...what does it mean, to be HONEST? That's right, to tell the truth, or to be honest with others and to yourself. Bigfoot, or Kitch- Sabe, reminds the people in the village to live with honesty.

Building Prior Knowledge - Teacher Talk:

Let's brainstorm before we read, and write our answers down on a mind map, chart, chalkboard, etc. What do we already know about Bigfoot? They are kind of mysterious aren't they? Bigfoot is a legend...to help people remember this teaching....Can you think of reasons why we need to be honest?

Read Aloud/ During Reading:

Read the story aloud, asking questions to guide student thinking. Read the story at the circle area/carpet, or place under the document camera to view on the interactive white board. Use the Predicting Strategy- What do you think will happen next? Why were the characters, "Frozen in Fear?" That's a metaphor, or a saying...were they really frozen? No, of course not....Read the book again, and ask students to join in, as you complete a shared reading read aloud together.

After Reading:

Ask students to turn to their partner and retell the events of the story in sequence. Have them talk about their favorite part, and play a freeze game with the group, to music, sounds or touch; students can "freeze like a statue."

Follow Up Writing Activities/Extensions:

Have students write a narrative about the games the characters might have played with the bigfoot, the Kitch-Sabe, or how the characters go on a snowshoeing adventure. Connect snowshoes to early form of technology, in Early Settler Social Studies.

Art Activities to Accompany this Picture Book:

Students can make a poster about why it is important to always be honest; you can connect this to safety.

Evaluation And Assessment Opportunities:

During oral discussion and art activity, use a checklist to confirm which students are on task, and how effectively they are communicating the message of honesty. Use a writing rubric for writing tasks appropriate for your student's grade level.

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Rabbit and Bear Paws – Sacred Seven Series: TRUTH- TURTLE

Complimentary Read Aloud/Writing – Lesson Plan

Recommended Grades and Curriculum Connections

Pre K-Grade 3: Language Strands; Reading, Writing, Oral Communication (Listening and Speaking), Arts, Science, 1- 3 Periods.

Background Knowledge for Teachers

The Seven Grandfather Teachings are comparable to Character Education Values and Virtues. The Seven Grandfather Teachings are; Courage, Wisdom, Honesty, Truth, Humility, Respect and Love. The teaching of Wisdom is associated with the **TURTLE** -To know truth is to know and understand all of the original laws as given by the Creator- and to remain faithful to them. It is said that in the beginning, when the Creator made man and gave him the seven sacred laws, the Grandmother Turtle was present to ensure that the laws would never be lost or forgotten. On the back of a Turtle are the 13 moons, each representing the truth of one cycle of the Earth's rotations around the sun. The 28 markings on her back represent the cycle of the moon and of a woman's body. The shell of the Turtle represents the body real events as created by the Higher Power, and serves as a reminder of the Creator's will and teachings (Solomon, 2011).

Pre-Reading - Teacher Talk:

Let's look at the front cover. Look at the turtle's faces? How do you think they are feeling? Do they look like friends? Friends help each other don't they?

Building Prior Knowledge - Teacher Talk:

Let's brainstorm before we read, and write our answers down on a mind map, chart, chalkboard, etc. What do we already know about Turtles? Are they mammals, reptiles or amphibians? What do turtles eat? How fast do they move? Do they bite?

Read Aloud/ During Reading:

Read the story aloud, asking questions to guide student thinking. Read the story at the circle area/carpet, or place under the document camera to view on the interactive white board. Use the Predicting Strategy- What do you think will happen next? Why did the Grandmother Turtle help the characters in the story get home?

After Reading:

Ask students to turn to their partner and retell the events of the story in sequence. Have them talk about their favorite part, and how important it is to live a truth life, which means using all of the teachings to be kind to one another, and help people and animals when they need a little help.

Follow Up Writing Activities/Extensions:

Have students write about connections they can make to themselves, or other turtle stories such as the Turtle and the Hare. "This story reminds me of..." In a large group make a character comparison chart to compare students or stories. Record student answers.

Art Activities to Accompany this Picture Book:

Students can make turtles from play dough, or carve soap stone turtles. Look at a real turtle shell and count the 13 moons, and 28 days of the back of the turtle! Connect to science, and discuss turtle habitats.

Evaluation And Assessment Opportunities:

During oral discussion and art activity, use a checklist to confirm which students are on task, and how effectively they are communicating with and listening to each other. Use a writing rubric for writing tasks appropriate for your student's grade level.

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Recommended Grades and Curriculum Connections

Pre K-Grade 3:

Language Strands; Reading, Writing, Oral Communication (Listening and Speaking), Arts, Social Studies, 1- 3 Periods.

Background Knowledge for Teachers

The Seven Grandfather Teachings are comparable to Character Education Values and Virtues. The Seven Grandfather Teachings are; Courage, Wisdom, Honesty, Truth, Humility, Respect and Love. The teaching of Humility is associated with the **Mouse**. The mouse is so small it must be humble in the presence of all other creatures. Mouse the never imposes it's will onto other creatures (Solomon, 2011).

Pre-Reading - Teacher Talk:

Let's look at the front cover. I predict that this story might be about a Mouse. If I turn to the back cover, and read the back, I can see that this story is about a mouse helping the characters. The story is also about humility, the mouse is a humble animal, because even though it is small, it can still help people and animals bigger than her.

Building Prior Knowledge - Teacher Talk:

Let's brainstorm before we read, and write our answers down on a mind map, chart, chalkboard, etc. What do we already know about mice? Do we know of any other stories about mice helping people? Make connections.

Read Aloud/ During Reading:

Read the story aloud, asking questions to guide student thinking. Read the story at the circle area/carpet, or place under the document camera to view on the interactive white board. Use the Predicting Strategy- What do you think will happen next? Read the book again, and ask students to join in, as you complete a shared reading read aloud together.

After Reading:

Ask students to turn to their partner and retell the events of the story in sequence. Have them talk about their favorite part, and sing songs about mice. i.e. Three Blind Mice.

Follow Up Writing Activities/Extensions:

Have students use your current classroom reading response forms to complete with this story. Have students create their own copycat narrative about a small mouse helping a larger person. Make connections to other stories here.

Art Activities to Accompany this Picture Book:

Students can paint pictures of their favorite part of the story. Use chalk on black paper, or pastels as an alternative to paint. Students should write a few sentences about their picture.

Evaluation And Assessment Opportunities:

During art activity, use a checklist to confirm which students are on task, and how effectively they are communicating with and listening to each other. Use a writing rubric for writing tasks appropriate for your student's grade level.

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Rabbit and Bear Paws – Sacred Seven Series: RESPECT-BUFFALO

Complimentary Read Aloud/Writing – Lesson Plan

Recommended Grades and Curriculum Connections

Pre K-Grade 3: Language Strands; Reading, Writing, Oral Communication (Listening and Speaking), Arts, Science, 1- 3 Periods.

Background Knowledge for Teachers

The Seven Grandfather Teachings are comparable to Character Education Values and Virtues. The Seven Grandfather Teachings are: Courage, Wisdom, Honesty, Truth, Humility, Respect and Love. The teaching of Wisdom is associated with the **BUFFALO** - The Buffalo, through giving its life and sharing every part of it's being, showed the deep respect it had for the people. No animal was more important to the existence of Indigenous families than this animal, and its gift provided shelter, clothing and utensils for daily living. Native people believed themselves to be true caretakers of the great herds, and developed a sustainable relationship with the Buffalo resulting in a relationship that was a true expression of respect. (Solomon, 2011).

Pre-Reading - Teacher Talk:

Let's look at the front cover, do you see how the characters are keeping their distance from the animals, they are showing them respect by standing back a bit, and not entering the space where they are eating. They are showing respect for the buffalo by doing that. If we turn the book over and read the back cover, we can see that this book is all about respecting animals.

Building Prior Knowledge - Teacher Talk:

Let's brainstorm before we read, and write our answers down on a mind map, chart, chalkboard, etc. What do we already know about Buffalo? What does it mean to have respect, how do we show respect for animals and people? What are some ways we can show others respect? Connect to science strand, impact of humans on animals and environment.

Read Aloud/ During Reading:

Read the story aloud, asking questions to guide student thinking. Read the story at the circle area/carpet, or place under the document camera to view on the interactive white board. Use the Predicting Strategy- What do you think will happen next? Why were the characters, read the book again, and ask students to join in, as you complete a shared reading read aloud together.

After Reading:

Ask students to turn to their partner and retell the events of the story in sequence. Have them talk about their favorite part, and play an animal sound game, what do buffalo sound like? What noises do they make? What about other animals? How do they move? Move around like a buffalo, and other hoofed animals.

Follow Up Writing Activities/Extensions:

Have students write a description piece about buffalo from the information they learned from the story. Discuss their horns, and their hooves, and the purpose of horns and hooves (animal defense). Connect to other animal defenses in science.

Art Activities to Accompany this Picture Book:

Students can draw pictures of buffalo and their babies in a field of grass, or in a swimming hole, as in the story, or they can make connections and draw pictures of other animals and their babies. Discuss different kinds of animals and baby animal names. Buffalo=calf, Cow=calf, Bird=hatchling, Deer=fawn, etc.

Evaluation And Assessment Opportunities:

During oral discussion and art activity, use a checklist to confirm which students are on task, and how effectively they are communicating with and listening to each other. Use a writing rubric for writing tasks appropriate for your student's grade level.

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Background Knowledge for Teachers

The Seven Grandfather Teachings are comparable to Character Education Values and Virtues. The Seven Grandfather Teachings are: Courage, Wisdom, Honesty, Truth, Humility, Respect and Love. The teaching of Wisdom is associated with the **EAGLE** - To feel true love is to know the Creator. Therefore, it is expected that one's first love is to be the Great Spirit. He is considered the father of all children, and the giver of human life. Love given to the Great Spirit is expressed through love of oneself, and it is understood that if one cannot love oneself, it is impossible to love anyone else. The Eagle was chosen by the Great Spirit to represent this law, as the Eagle can reach the highest out of all the creatures in bringing pure vision to the seeker. Though the purveyor of the greatest and most powerful medicine, love can also be the most elusive of the teachings, as it depends upon a world that acknowledges the importance of spirituality. (Solomon, 2011).

Pre-Reading - Teacher Talk:

Let's look at the front cover. We see the Eagles and the characters and the Mother. If we look at the back cover, we see that the boys learn about love from the Eagles, as they watch them take care of their babies.

Building Prior Knowledge - Teacher Talk:

Let's brainstorm before we read, and write our answers down on a mind map, chart, chalkboard, etc. What do we already know about Eagles? What do we know about love? You can love your family and friends, and show them love, by doing kind things for them. You can also show yourself love, by being kind to yourself.

Read Aloud/ During Reading:

Read the story aloud, asking questions to guide student thinking. Read the story at the circle area/carpet, or place under the document camera to view on the interactive white board. Use the Predicting Strategy- What do you think will happen next? Read the book again, and ask students to join in, as you complete a shared reading read aloud together.

After Reading:

Ask students to turn to their partner and retell the events of the story in sequence. Have them talk about their favorite part. Have them also tell their friends two reasons why they really like them, and two things they really like about themselves. This is a good esteem booster. Share the answers with the whole group.

Follow Up Writing Activities/Extensions:

Have students write a letter to a family member, telling them why they love them. Make thank you cards, or thinking of you cards, for friends and family members to help students understand *gratitude*.

Art Activities to Accompany this Picture Book:

Students can paint a picture of themselves doing something they love with their friends, like the boys loved swimming.....what do you like to do? Have students write a few sentences about their picture.

Evaluation And Assessment Opportunities:

During oral discussion and art activity, use a checklist to confirm which students are on task, and how effectively they are communicating with and listening to each other. Use a writing rubric for writing tasks appropriate for your student's grade level.

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