



WILD THINGS LESSON PLAN

Book: Where The Wild Things Are

Objective: To bring the story to life using our bodies and experience it physically and emotionally. Children will physicalize animate and inanimate objects, explore some emotions, and begin to identify beginning, middle and end.

1.. **Literature to Life:** Dramatizing the story while teacher tells/narrates. Gather have all the children sit in a Circle.

A. As teacher tells the story have each child pretend to put on a wolf suit and make “Mischievous” faces.

B. Setting: our first setting is Max’s room. Show the picture in the book. Aside from Max, talk about what else is in his room. Have the children see if they can use their bodies to “make” the other things in Max’s room. Who can make their body in the shape of a bed? How about with a partner? A table? A Chair?

Setting part 2: As teacher continues to read/narrate the story, have the children make their bodies small on the ground and become trees that “grow and grow and grow until the ceiling hung with vines and the walls because the world all around.”

C: Boat Ride: use masking tape to make an outline of a boat on the floor. Narrate the story and have all the children be Max and step in and row “in an out of days...”etc. Everyone pretend to row. Teacher may choose to lead them in singing Row, Row, Row Your boat.

D. Wild Things: Split the class in half - make one half the class be Max/Maxines and one half beWild Things. Let the wild things find places around the room, and make their bodies look like wild things and continue the narration and let them roar their terrible roars, gnash their terrible teeth, roll their terrible eyes and show their terrible claws on cue.

E. Taming: As teacher narrates, see if the children will simply follow the narration. If not, suggest that the actions that the story says: Have the Max’s command the Wild Things “Be Still!” And have them all stare at each other while Max “tames” them.

F. Crowning: Have the Wild Things come put a crown on Max’s head

G. Wild Rumpus: Have Max say “And now - let the Wild Rumpus Start!” Put on music (Miss Nina’s “Wild Things”) and have them dance, jump, roar, etc. to the song.

H. Now Stop: Turn off the music. Have Max send the Wild Things away.

I. Feelings: Max feels lonesome. What does that look like? Can you show with your face and body what feeling lonesome is like? Homesick?



J. **Takes Off the Crown:** Max gives up being kind of The Wild things and dramatically takes off his crown. Now the Wild Things are feeling something. What are they feeling? Sad? Lonely? Can you show with your body a lonely or sad wild Thing?

K. **Dialogue:** Have the kids act out/say/repeat after the teacher the dialogue that the Wild Things and Max say. ("Oh please don't go.... All the way through "they showed their terrible claws".

L. **Boat ride home:** Have all the kids present to be Max again. Get back in the boat and row home. Do they sing this time? Or would Max be quiet?

M. **Back in his room.** See if the children will make their bodies into the setting again while the teacher finishes narrating the story.

2. **Favorite Frames:** Have the children raise their hand and take turns to tell you their favorite parts of the story. Ask if each of them can use their body to show the class a frozen picture (or stature) of their favorite part. Ask each child if their favorite part is from the beginning, the middle or the end.

3. **Thought Tracking:** Go Back to the scene when Max first arrives at The Place Where The Wild Things Are. Have everyone freeze like they are a picture in the story. Tell the children to stay frozen, except when they get tapped on the head, have them tell us what their character is thinking.

3. **Make Wild Thing Mask:** using paper plates and/or large paper bags, along crayons, paint, glue, feathers, construction paper - each child creates his own Mask to wear or hold up while being a Wild Thing.

4. **Make and Decorate A Crown:** Each Child makes a crown for Max for when he becomes King Of All Wild Things

*Optional: In the Literature-To-Life section, use pieces of material or lots of movement scarves to "dress Up" in. Be creative making hats, tails, skirts, capes, etc...