

Overview

The audience I chose for this storytime presentation is children in grades 1-3 at “After School StoryTime!” held at the Cold Spring Elementary School Drop-In Center. The theme, “Pictures Without Words, Words Without Pictures,” is designed to show kids that there are books designed for them that are different than the picture books (with pictures *and* words) they’re used to seeing, that allow them to imagine what *isn’t* on the page in front of them. To evaluate the success of the program, I will observe the kids’ reactions and responses throughout storytime and keep track of each child’s choice of activity (writing or drawing); the kids will choose their favorite book during the closing (sticky note evaluation).

Plan

- 1) Welcome
- 2) Opening Ritual
 - a) Sing and move to “Shake My Sillies Out,” by Raffi (since they’ve been sitting most of the day during school).
 - b) Sit down, then do “Open, Shut Them” fingerplay.
 - c) Review “After School StoryTime!” rules.
- 3) Book 1: Introduce and “read” *Tuesday*, by David Wiesner – instruct kids to look closely at each picture and think about what they think is happening and how they might describe each picture.
- 4) Moving Activity: Sing and do motions for “Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes” – start at normal pace, work up to hyper-speed, then down to sloth mode.
- 5) Book 2: Introduce and read *The Book With No Pictures*, by B.J. Novak – instruct kids to think about the images that pop into their heads while they listen to the words of the story.

- 6) Book Activities: Kids choose one of the two activities – if they finish with one before time is up, they can do the other, too.
 - a) Book 1 Activity: Display pictures of each page, have kids choose a picture and write about what’s happening in 1-3 sentences (or more, if they’re so inclined).
 - b) Book 2 Activity: Display each page with words, have kids choose a page and draw a picture they think will go along with the words.
- 7) Closing Ritual
 - a) Kids place colored sticky note on board for favorite book choice: pink = *Tuesday*; blue = *The Book With No Pictures*; purple = both.
 - b) Recite the animal goodbye poem with the kids (“See you later, alligator. After a while, crocodile...”)

Policy/Guidelines

The majority of storytime guidelines and policies I found were geared toward storytimes where parents/caregivers attend with their children; thus, the guidelines were written for the parents/caregivers, as opposed to the children themselves. Since my storytime is for first-through third-graders at an after school drop-in center, I referenced classroom guidelines to create a list of “rules” for the kids to follow at “After School StoryTime!”:

- Listen to the librarian and to each other
- Be kind to and respectful of others
- Use materials as instructed
- Keep your hands & feet to yourself
- Participate to the best of your ability today*

*The reason it states “today” is that moods, life events, weather, etc. impact what we feel we can accomplish in a given day or at a given time, so ‘the best of our ability’ one day, may look different than ‘the best of our ability’ another day. This will be explained each time the rules are reviewed.

Press Release

First-, Second- and Third-Graders, join Ms. Wendi for After School StoryTime! in the Drop-In Center on Wed, April 14. Our theme is “Pictures Without Words, Words Without Pictures” – Come see what that means!

Resources

Bennett, N. A. (2018, October 26). *4 Positive Classroom Rules that Improve Student Behavior*.

Kickboard. <https://www.kickboardforschools.com/classroom-behavior-management/4-positive-classroom-rules-that-improve-student-behavior/>

Goodwin, J. (2018, April 11). *Top 10 Classroom Rules for Elementary School Students*.

<https://schools.magoosh.com/schools-blog/top-10-classroom-rules-for-elementary-school-students>