

PRICELESS GIFTS

Kindergarten

Outcome:

Students will learn about cats and discover their significance to the story.

Materials:

Book, *Priceless Gifts*

Small brown lunch bags—5 ¼ in x 3 ⅛ in x 10 ⅝ in (also known as lunch sacks)

Scissors

Markers or crayons

Glue sticks

“Paper Bag Puppet Cat Pattern” worksheet

Fast food clam-style foam containers

Drinking straws

Paper

Clay

Single hole punch

Tub or large container filled with water

Cooking Materials:

Cinammon Scones:

Zip lock bags

Oven

Cookie sheet

Medium mixing bowl

Large spoon

Oven mitts

Spatula

Plates

Napkins

Spicy Mulled Cider:

Stove

Saucepan

Wooden spoon

Ladle

Cups

Ingredients:

Cinammon Scones

1 ¾ C all purpose flour

¼ tsp ground cinnamon

2 tsp honey

1 egg

1 ½ tsp baking powder

6 TBL (room temperature) butter

½ C milk

Ingredients cont.:

Spicy Mulled Cider

1 orange sliced in quarters	1 ½ quarts apple cider
2 cinnamon sticks	⅛ tsp nutmeg
⅛ tsp ground mace	1 whole clove

Optional:

Feathers

Colored plastic gems

Glue

Brennan, Jan. "Recipes." *Treasured Times with Five- to Ten-Year-Olds*. Little Rock: August House, 1990. 34.

Forest, Heather. "Mice in Council." *Wisdom Tales from Around the World*. Little Rock: August House, 1996. 49.

Hamilton, Martha, and Mitch Weiss. "Why Cats Wash Their Paws After Eating." *How & Why Stories*. Little Rock: August House, 1999. 26-27.

Assessment Tools:

"Rhyming" worksheet

INSTRUCTIONAL PLAN

Introductory Activity:

• Making Paper Bag Cats

Materials:

Small brown lunch bags—5 ¼ in x 3 ⅛ in x 10 ⅝ in (also known as lunch sacks)

Scissors

Markers or crayons

Glue sticks

"Paper Bag Puppet Cat Pattern" worksheet

Directions:

1. Color cat's eyes, nose, tongue, and ears on cat face puppet pattern.
 2. Draw whiskers.
 3. Cut out cat face puppet pattern on dotted lines.
 4. Glue colored pattern onto the bottom flap of the bag.
 5. Draw a body and paws in the appropriate places on the bag.
- Teacher asks students to tell what they know about cats.
 - Teacher asks students to name any songs or stories that they know about cats.
 - Teacher divides class into small groups and asks them to create skits using the cat puppets.

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Teacher Reads Story:

- Teacher tells students that they will listen to a story about cats.
- Teacher asks students to use puppets to act out the cat's actions as appropriate during the reading of the story.

Questions for Assessing Students' Comprehension:

- Why did Antonio sail to faraway islands?
- What did Antonio trade for spices?
- Where was Antonio invited to dine?
- What animals were the guards chasing at the king's palace?
- What gift did Antonio give the king?
- What was in the chest that the king gave to Antonio?
- Why did Antonio think the cats would help with the rats?
- How did Luigi feel when he heard about the gifts that the king had given Antonio?
- What did Luigi pack on his ship?
- What did Luigi *think* the king would give him?
- How did Luigi act when he received the kitten?

Interpretation:

- Why did the king give Antonio jewels?
- Did Antonio want the king to pay him for the cats?
- Why did Luigi decide to give the king paintings and fabrics?
- How did the king feel when Luigi gave him all of the treasures?
- Why did the king think he had given Luigi a priceless gift?
- Why did Luigi smile and pretend to like the gift?
- Have you ever been given a gift you did not like? If so, what did you do? Luigi was gracious. Were you gracious?
- What lesson did Luigi learn?
- What is the most thoughtful gift you have ever received? (Remember a gift does not have to be a *thing*. A gift can be something that someone does for another person such as sharing lunch with a friend who has forgotten his or her lunch.)
- Antonio traded velvet, dolls, and belts for spices. Have you ever traded with someone? How do you know if a trade is fair?
- How do you think the guards felt about the cats?
- How would the story be different if Antonio gave the king a different animal such as a bird?
- Do you think that the cats are the most important characters in the story? Why or why not?

Follow Up Activities:

• **Story Re-telling**

Teacher holds up the book and shows each picture in the book. Students take turns re-telling the story, using the illustrations as their guide.

Follow Up Activities cont.

• **Cat Proverbs**

- Teacher explains that proverbs are sayings that are part of every culture. They are a way for a community to express its ideas and beliefs.
- Teacher asks students to choose a partner.
- Teacher asks students to choose a proverb and to create a skit to illustrate it.
- Cat Proverbs:
 - If you don't feed the cats, you must feed the rats.
 - When the cat's away, the mice will play.
 - Curiosity killed the cat.
 - What joy fills the mouse when the cat is out of the house.
 - The cat loves fish but hates wet feet.
 - A cat is a lion in a jungle of small bushes.
 - If stretching made money, all cats would be wealthy.
 - When the cat is gone, out come the rats to stretch themselves.
 - He is as quiet as cat.

• **Move Like a Cat**

- Teacher asks students to describe how cats move.
- Teacher asks students to imitate a cat moving.
- Teacher asks students: When you bend your torso forward and round your back up, why is that called a cat stretch?
- Teacher asks students to imitate cat movement in different situations including:
 - a cat stretching out on a rainy day
 - a cat waiting quietly for a mouse
 - a cat chasing a mouse
 - a cat's reaction when a mouse runs into a small space where the cat cannot fit
 - a scared cat.
- Teacher asks students to name and demonstrate other cat movements and actions.

• **Design a Hat for the King**

Materials:

Paper

Crayons

Optional: feathers, colored plastic gems, and glue

Directions: Students draw a hat for each character—Antonio, Luigi, and the king. Why is the king's hat the most ornate?

Follow Up Activities cont.:

• **Rhyming**

Materials: “Rhyming” worksheet

Scissors

Glue sticks

Directions:

1. Cut out each of the pictures on the bottom of the page.
2. Place each picture under the word with which it rhymes.
3. Say each word to be sure that it rhymes with the object in the picture under which it is placed.
4. Glue each picture in the correct space.

• **Spicy Tea Party**

Create a tea party for the class using the recipes for cinnamon scones and mulled apple cider.

Cinnamon Scones

Materials: YIELD: 8 scones

Zip lock bags

Oven

Cookie sheet

Medium mixing bowl

Large spoon

Oven mitts

Spatula

Plates

Napkins

Ingredients:

1 $\frac{3}{4}$ C all purpose flour

1 $\frac{1}{2}$ tsp baking powder

$\frac{1}{4}$ tsp ground cinnamon

6 TBL (room temperature) butter

2 tsp honey

$\frac{1}{2}$ C milk

1 egg

Directions:

1. Preheat oven to 400 degrees.
2. Place flour, baking powder, cinnamon, and butter in a zip lock bag.
3. Knead mixture in zip lock bag until well blended.
4. Place mixture in bowl and add honey, milk, and egg. Stir until well mixed.
5. Using the spoon, scoop full spoonfuls of dough and drop them onto baking sheet. Be sure to leave space between them.
6. Bake for 15 minutes in center of oven. Scones are ready when golden brown. Add more baking time if necessary.
7. After the scones cool for 5 minutes, remove them with spatula. Serve warm.

Follow Up Activities cont.:

Spicy Tea Party cont.

Mulled Apple Cider

- Teacher allows students to smell the spices.
- Teacher asks students to describe how each spice smells.
- Teacher asks how the cinnamon sticks differ from the ground cinnamon used in the scone recipe.

Materials:

Stove

Saucepan

Wooden spoon

Ladle

Cups

Napkins

Ingredients:

1 orange sliced in quarters

1 ½ quarts apple cider

2 cinnamon sticks

⅛ tsp nutmeg

⅛ tsp ground mace

1 whole clove

Directions:

1. Place the saucepan on the stove.
2. Add the orange, apple cider, cinnamon sticks, nutmeg, mace, and whole cloves.
3. Stir with a wooden spoon.
4. Heat cider over medium heat until it begins to bubble (about 10 minutes).
5. Reduce heat to medium low and simmer at least 15 minutes.
6. Ladle the cider into 8 small cups.
7. Serve warm.

Extensions:

- **Create Boats out of Recycled Materials**

Materials:

Fast food clam-style foam containers (1 per 2 students)

Drinking straws

Paper

Markers or crayons

Clay

Single hole punch

Tub or large container filled with water.

Directions:

1. Look at the picture of Antonio's ship and notice the different shapes of the sails.
2. Draw one or two sails on the paper and cut them out.
3. Decorate sails and punch holes with the hole punch in the place(s) you want to insert the straw.
4. Divide the foam containers in half along the crease so each student has one half.

Extensions cont.:

Create Boats out of Recycled Materials cont.

5. Place a small piece of clay in the center of the foam container.
6. Thread sail(s) onto straw and place straw into clay.
7. Sail the boat!
8. Brainstorm: what other types of recycled materials could we use to create a sailboat?

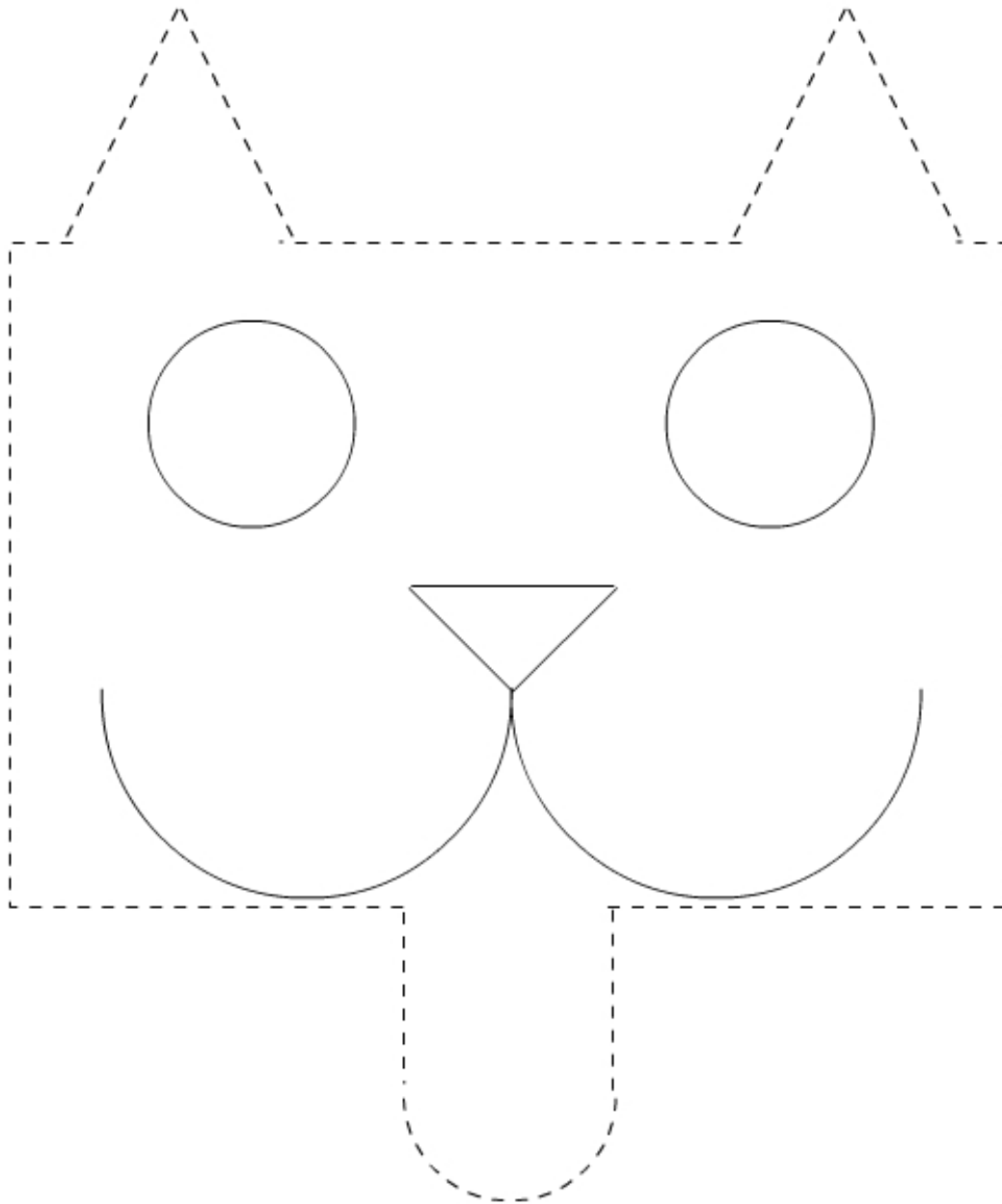
• Create Fruit Boats

Create fruit boats using recipes and ideas on Page 34 in *Treasured Times with Five- to Ten-Year-Olds* (Brennan).

• Compare and Contrast

- Read “Mice in Council” on page 49 in *Wisdom Tales from Around the World* (Forest). This short story describes mice planning to avoid the house cat. Compare and contrast this story with *Priceless Gifts*.
- Read “Why Cats Wash Their Paws After Eating” on page 26 in *Wisdom Tales From Around the World* (Forest). This short story explains two traits of cats: being hunters and spending a good deal of time grooming. Compare and contrast this story with *Priceless Gifts*.

Paper Bag Puppet Cat Pattern



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Name _____ Date _____

Rhyming

