Jean E. Zellner  
ED 8471  
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Professor: S. Rodriguez

Activity Plan

Level: Grade 3

Title: Jambo! It’s Storytelling Time!

Brief History and Background of Artist and Artwork:

The following information on storytelling was related by an internationally known storyteller, Denise Valentine.

African storytelling involves music, song, and dance. The Baobab tree is where children listened to the elders tell the story. The Djembe were the talking drums used to call listeners to the story. A cowtail switch was carried by Kings as a symbol of leadership and wisdom. It was also used by storytellers if the King was not present. The French word Griot means an African storyteller and Jaliya is the tradition of storytelling. Storytellers are trained from age 5 and told the history of centuries. The tradition is passed down through families and storytellers were hired by the King.

Storytelling is a community event. You can make the story your own, but there are certain protocols to heed.

1. Call to story. Stories are African centered, so there is always a drum.
2. Hello in many languages. There are 8000 African languages, but Jambo is the Swahili word. Jambo Watoto means hello children.
3. The story.

Anansi, the spider God, is responsible for bringing all stories from the Sky God. He uses his wit to win (Trickster Tale). Every culture has a trickster character. Trickster Tales may have had deeper meaning to send messages. Bodies became drums, which is how the hambone song evolved, since slave owners ignored children’s songs and stories

Anansi stories traveled the route of slavery from Ghana to Jamaica to the Southern United States.

Por Qua Tale – Why are things as they are?

4. Asante (Thank You)
Goal: The students will learn the art of African storytelling and construct an African storytelling drum to use as a call to their stories.

Objectives:

1. The students will locate the continent of Africa on the map, find the country of Ghana, follow a path to Jamaica, and then to the Southern United States.
2. The students will read the story The Talking Cloth to learn about the Ashanti culture and customs.
3. The students will listen to the story Anansi, the Spider to learn about the roots of African Storytelling.
4. The students will read several Trickster Tales and learn the elements of a Trickster Tale.
5. The students will learn the procedure used in African Storytelling using background information.
6. The students will construct a call to story African Storytelling drum.
7. The students will call the class to the story with their drum and tell a Trickster Tale.

Materials:

- Book, The Talking Cloth by Rhonda Mitchell
- Book, Anansi the Spider: A Tale from the Ashanti by Gerald McDermott
- Trickster Tales
- World Map
- 1 Coffee can with both ends removed and 2 lids for each student
- White construction paper cut to wrap around each can
- Yarn
- Watercolors and brushes
- Crayons
- Water
- Tacky Glue

Directions:

1. Locate Africa on the World Map and find Ghana on the West coast.
2. Have the students read the story The Talking Cloth, which introduces Ghana and the Ashanti people and Adinkra Cloth.
3. Discuss what the talking cloth is and note the symbols and colors that talk.
4. Read Anansi the Spider: A Tale from the Ashanti to introduce the students to African Storytelling.
5. Use the background information to teach the students the storytelling procedure, and note the importance of the Storytelling Drum.
6. Show the picture of the attached Ashanti Drum with the Adinkra symbol from The Talking Cloth or the attached information on the side.
7. Have the students make a coffee can drum with the following steps:
• Draw Ashanti symbols from The Talking Cloth on the white construction paper with crayon.
• Paint over the symbols with water colors (crayon resist technique).
• Glue the paper around the can with Tacky glue.
• Tie pieces of yarn around the can tightly from top to bottom in several places, making the knot inside the can.
• Attach the lids on both ends to hold the yarn in place.

8. Have the students choose and learn a Trickster Tale to tell.
9. On their turn, each student will use their African Storytelling Drum to call the class to their story.

Bibliography/References:


