

HOW DO DINOSAURS GO TO SCHOOL?

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by Jane Yolen, illustrated by Mark Teague

Themes: Dinosaurs, School, Behavior, Rhyming, Humor

Grade Level: PreK-2; Ages: 4-7

Running Time: 8 minutes

SUMMARY

School gets even more interesting when dinosaurs are involved! Imagine an iguanodon participating in circle time, or a segnosaurus waiting at your bus stop. How would your teacher react if a monolophosaurus strolled through the door? Recess takes on a whole new level of excitement with a dsungaripterus on the playground! Students' imaginations will leap during this latest dinosaur creation from Jane Yolen and Mark Teague.

OBJECTIVES

- Students will make text-to-self connections.
- Students will contrast responsible school behavior with irresponsible school behavior.
- Students will identify and generate rhyming words.

BEFORE VIEWING ACTIVITIES

Review rhyming words with students. Put up a list of 3-5 pairs of rhyming words with different endings. Read the words aloud as you point to them (or have students choral read the words).

Ask students:

- What do you notice about these word pairs?
- What can you see about these word pairs that is the same? (*same ending*)
- What sounds the same in these word pairs?
- Can you think of any other words that sound the same as the words on the board? (*List students' answers, then choral read or read aloud all of the rhyming words*).

Tell students that they are about to see a movie with many rhyming words. Encourage them to listen for words that rhyme, and show them a silent hand signal that they can use every time they hear rhyming words.

Start a discussion about school and classroom behavior. Guiding questions:

- What are important rules that we have in our classroom? (*be nice, raise your hand, respect the materials, wait your turn, share*) List students' answers.
- What kinds of behaviors are unacceptable in our classroom? (*fighting, calling out, disturbing others, bullying*) List students' answers.

Tell students that they are about to watch a funny movie about dinosaurs going to a school like theirs. Ask:

- How do you think a dinosaur would act in the classroom?
- What kinds of problems might occur?
- Could a dinosaur help solve any problems? What kinds?

Encourage students to watch and listen for whether or not their predictions about dinosaurs at school were correct.

AFTER VIEWING ACTIVITIES

Have students make text-to-self connections. Guiding questions:

- Were there any dinosaurs in the video that acted like you at school? Which one(s)? What did they do to make you think of yourself?
- How do you behave at school? Do you do any of the same things that the dinosaurs did? Do you do anything different?
- How was the school in the movie similar to our school? How was it different?

Review the list about responsible school behavior that students generated before watching the movie. Ask students if they have any ideas to add after watching the movie. Add these thoughts to the list. Then, give students blank pieces of paper with the words "Dinosaurs' School Rules" written at the top, and one of the rules that students generated written at the bottom (or students can copy the rule themselves if they are able). Have students draw a picture of a dinosaur demonstrating the rule on their picture. Provide students with dinosaur stencils to trace, cut out pictures of dinosaurs to glue onto their picture, or just encourage them to draw a dinosaur the best they can. Display the students' work around the classroom.

Review the rhyming words from the Before Viewing Activity. Ask students if they remember any of the rhyming words from the movie. Record the words that they remember and refer to the book or movie **How Do Dinosaurs Go To School?** for help. Tell students that rhyming words are often found in poems. Work as a class to write a poem about responsible school behavior. Provide the students with a starting line or stanza, and then go around in a circle, having each child contribute one word or line to the poem. Encourage the students to try to make their contribution fit with the previous line or lines. Read some poetry aloud to give them ideas! Write the poem on a large piece of chart paper as the students compose it and hang it in the room.

OTHER STORIES ABOUT BEHAVIOR AND SCHOOL FROM WESTON WOODS:

Bear Snores On, by Karma Wilson, ill. by Jane Chapman

Chrysanthemum, by Kevin Henkes

Crazy Hair Day, by Barney Saltzberg

Do Unto Otters (A Book About Manners), by Laurie Keller

Emily's First 100 Days of School, by Rosemary Wells

Giraffes Can't Dance, by Giles Andreae, ill. by Guy Parker-Rees

Knuffle Bunny Too, by Mo Willems

Madam President, by Lane Smith

Otto Runs for President, by Rosemary Wells