THE RED CARPET
by Rex Parkin
Themes: City Living/Country Living
Grade Level: K-2
Running Time: 9 minutes, iconographic

SUMMARY
THE RED CARPET is the story of a red carpet that rolls out of a fancy city hotel, the Hotel Bellevue, for a visiting Duke. Unfortunately, the carpet keeps unrolling and unrolling, onto the sidewalk, through the city streets, into the countryside and all the way to the ferry where the visiting Duke is just about to leave the ferry boat. The Duke assumes that the police officers chasing the carpet are there to escort him to the hotel. The Duke is grateful, indeed, and what at first was considered to be a calamitous situation, turns out to be the best thing that ever happened for the Hotel Bellevue!

OBJECTIVES
• Children will explore the differences between city and country living.
• Children will investigate the different kinds of transportation and services available in the city.
• Children will enjoy a humorous story about events beyond the control of authority figures.

BEFORE VIEWING ACTIVITIES
Share the book, THE RED CARPET, with children. Then ask:
• If the red carpet stayed on the city streets and country roads, what ways can you think of that the carpet may have been used?
• Talk with children about experiences they may have had staying in hotels or motels. (If children have not had such experiences, share illustrations/photos of hotels and describe the services offered there.) Ask:
  • How is being in a hotel/motel different from being at home?
  • What do you like most/least about it?
  • Where did you eat when you stayed there?
  • What kinds of jobs do hotel/motel workers have?
• Discuss the differences between city and country living. Ask children:
  • What kinds of vehicles do people use in the city? in the country?
  • What kinds of noises do you hear in the city? in the country?
  • What would you like most/least about living in the city? in the country?

AFTER VIEWING ACTIVITIES
Supply paint, small cardboard boxes of varying sizes, paste or glue, crayons, pieces of white construction paper cut into strips and large sheets of posterboard that children can use to paint three dimensional representations of the city. Have children paint the boxes to represent buildings and attach them to the sheets of posterboard with paste. Have children use the crayons and strips of white construction paper to create labels for their buildings and streets. Later, display children’s creations and have children describe them to their classmates.

Have children dramatize a visit to a fancy hotel. Explore the different kinds of work people do in hotels. Assign children the roles of desk clerk, cleaning staff, waiters, bellhops, etc.

Provide props such as hats, overcoats, and high heel shoes that the “guests” can dress up in. You might want to work with children to cook up a snack that can be served at the hotel at tea time! Wherever possible, give children the opportunity to print signs, menus, hotel rules, receipts, etc., to use during their dramatizations.

Take an imaginary red carpet ride with children. Begin by having children imagine that they are riding on a red carpet through a museum. Ask:
• What kinds of things do you see as you look to your right? to your left?
• What things would you like to look more closely at?

Later, have children pretend that they are riding through an airport, amusement park, police station, etc. Encourage children to describe the many different things they would find there.

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