

THE TRUE STORY OF THE 3 LITTLE PIGS!

THE TRUE STORY OF THE 3 LITTLE PIGS!

By Jon Scieszka

Ages: 3-8

Themes: Fairy Tales, Humor, Perceptions

Running Time: 8 minutes

SUMMARY

The familiar story of The Three Little Pigs is retold from the wolf's point of view. According to Al, AKA "The Big Bad Wolf", it all started with a cup of sugar and a sneeze. Down with a terrible cold and out of the key ingredient for his granny's birthday cake, Al travels to his neighbor's house to borrow some sugar. His neighbor happens to be a pig who was foolish enough to build his house out of straw. An ill-timed sneeze blows the whole house in, leaving the poor pig dead. Not one to let food go to waste, Al gobbles him up before traveling on to his brother's stick house, still in search of sugar. In a humorous twist to the well-known storyline, the wolf finds himself framed before he knows it.

OBJECTIVES

- Students will become familiar with the elements of a fairy tale.
- Students will identify point of view in different fairy tales.
- Students will compare and contrast fairy tales.

BEFORE VIEWING ACTIVITIES

Elicit background knowledge about fairy tales.

Guiding questions:

- What is a fairy tale?
- What fairy tales do you know?
- What happens in the fairy tales that you know about?
- What do you like about fairy tales? What don't you like?

Read aloud several well-known fairy tales. Identify the main elements of fairy tales: magic, good and evil characters, trickery, and an ending in which justice is served ("happy ending"). Make a chart with these elements and guide students to fill it in for the fairy tales that you read aloud. Encourage children to look and listen for these elements as they view the movie.

Introduce point of view to the students. Practice identifying point of view by having pairs of students describe an object from different angles. Read aloud the classical fairy tale of the *Three Little Pigs*. Ask students:

- Whose point of view is presented in this story? How do you know?
- Whose side of the story does the reader hear?
- How do you think the wolf feels? How would he tell this story differently?

Tell students that they will see a movie from the wolf's point of view. Encourage students to listen and look for differences between the movie and the story that they just read.

AFTER VIEWING ACTIVITIES

Use a Venn Diagram to compare and contrast the movie with the classical story of the Three Little Pigs. After comparing and contrasting, ask:

- Which version of the Three Little Pigs do you like better? Why?
- What information do you get from the wolf's point of view that you don't get in the other story?
- Who is the "bad" character in the wolf's version?

Then, read other classical and non-traditional pairings of fairy tales and compare and contrast them.

Suggested titles:

- *Red Riding Hood* by James Marshall and The Wolf's Story: What Really Happened to Little Red Riding Hood by Toby Forward
- *Cinderella* by James Marshall and *Prince Cinders* by Babette Cole

- *Goldilocks and the Three Bears* by James Marshall and the original fable
- *Hansel and Gretel* by the Brothers Grimm and retold by James Marshall

Using the components of a fairytale, have children write and illustrate their own fairytales. Help them by reading them both modern and classic fairytales to give them ideas. Younger children may need to tell their story aloud, if they are not yet writing. Students can choose between creating a completely new fairytale, or changing some of the aspects of a fairytale that they know.

Put on a class play of a fairy tale. You can use either a traditional or non-traditional version of *The Three Little Pigs* and expand parts of the movie to either change the story or further develop the characters. For younger children, you can rewrite these parts for them, or older children can help to do this. Alternatively, students can act out one of the fairy tales that you read aloud or the one that was written by the class.

OTHER SIMILAR TITLES AVAILABLE FROM WESTON WOODS INCLUDE:

The Boy Who Cried Wolf, retold by B.G. Hennessy, ill. by Boris Kulikov; *James Marshall's Cinderella*, retold by Barbara Karlin, ill. by James Marshall; *Favorite Fairy Tales: Chicken Little*, retold by Steven Kellogg; *The Emperor's New Clothes*, by Hans Christian Anderson, ill. by Nadine Bernard Westcott; *The Three Billy Goats Gruff*, by P.C. Asbjornsen & J.E. Moe, ill. by Marcia Brown. *Lon Po Po: A Red-Riding Hood Story from China*, by Ed Young; *Seven Blind Mice*, by Ed Young

To order other Weston Woods productions call 1-800-243-5020

This guide may be photocopied for free distribution without restriction