

It's All Relative: Incorporating Angela Johnson's Children's Literature into Reading and Writing

Teacher: Leslie Downer, Smiths Station Elementary School

Grade Level: 2

Objectives:

Based on Alabama Course of Study Language Arts Objectives
Grade Level: 2nd

- 2.9 Demonstrate an interest in and enjoyment of literature in a variety of forms and contexts.
- 2.12 Identify values, beliefs, and interests reflected in literature and other materials from various cultures.
- 2.13 Use descriptive and narrative writing to clarify thinking in all disciplines.

Pre-Reading Activities:

- 1) Teacher will pass out cards with relative/family names on them to several students. (Sister, mother, brother, father, uncle, aunt, grandmother, grandfather, great-grandmother, great-grandfather, cousin, etc.)
- 2) Students will be asked to read their card aloud, and students who have one of these family members will also stand up. Teacher will model sharing a fond memory with a family member and allow other students to share a fond memory that they had with their family member.
- 3) Teacher will discuss the Alabama author Angela Johnson. (Angela Johnson also had many fond memories of her family, which she shares in many of her books.)
- 4) Teacher will show book covers, read aloud titles, and give a very brief book talk: Just Like Josh Gibson, The Leaving Morning, The Wedding, When I Am Old with You, and Tell Me a Story, Mama.
- 5) Teacher will display books in different areas of the room. Give students a couple of minutes to think about which book they would like to read. Then, allow 3-4 students to go to the table or area where the book they would like to read is. (To divide groups evenly, place a certain amount of blank flashcards next to the book. Once there are no more cards, students will choose their next favorite choice.)

During Reading Activities:

Each group will be assigned literature roles: reader, summarizer, and questioner. (For groups with more than three students, a second reader can be added.)

Reader: Reads each page aloud and shows pictures to each member of the group.
2nd Reader: (if used) Reads every other page.

Summarizer: Retells the main thing or things that happened on that page.

Questioner: Asks questions to all members of the group that the teacher has prepared on sticky notes in the book, after the reader and summarizer have taken turns on that particular page.

After Reading Activities:

Evaluation:

PART 1:

- 1) Students will pretend to be one of the main characters in the book. They will retell the main events of the story from that character's perspective in writing.

(Start with *My name is* _____.)

OR

- 2) Students may write and illustrate (4-6) additional pages that would change or add to the book.

OR

- 3) Students may write a reader's theatre script based on the story they read.

PART 2: Students will regroup so that members of each group read a different story. Then students will share their retelling, additional ending, or reader's theatre script with the group. They will then either recommend the book to others and explain why or not recommend the book and explain why.

Extension Activities:

Additional Curriculum Standards:

2nd grade Alabama Technology Standard 2.5: Students use technology to locate, evaluate, and collect information from a variety of sources.

- 1) Students will write about a memory they had with one or more of their relatives that they want to remember.

-Students will use a graphic organizer to organize their thoughts.

-Students will write a final story to be published in a class book called "Relative Stories"

- 2) As students are writing or during a computer lab visit, teacher will show students the Web site *This Goodly Land* (www.alabamaliterarymap.org).

-Teacher will remind students that Angela Johnson was born in Alabama and lived here when she was a young girl.

-Teacher will then show students how to find other children's authors who are from Alabama or still live here.

-Teacher can assign different students to work in pairs and be an Alabama author detective.
-Then, students can investigate to see if their library has books by Alabama authors and check them out.

3) After finding different Alabama authors, assign each student to locate a book by that author in the library. Next, have students read a book and give a book talk about it. They can also add any information they found out about the author from *This Goodly Land* Web site (www.alabamaliterarymap.org) to help explain any part of the book.

Resources:

Alabama Course of Study: www.alsde.edu/html/sections/

Literary Partners: Information Literacy Objectives. Literacy Partners: A Principal's Guide to an Effective Library Media Program for the 21st Century. (2000) "Appendix B K-12 Information Objectives." Second Grade. (<http://www.alsde.edu/general/LiteracyPartners.pdf>)