

Trouble Dolls

By Jimmy Buffett & Savannah Jane Buffett

Teacher: Debbie Lundstrom, Oak Grove Elementary School, Acworth, Ga.

Title of Lesson: *Trouble Dolls*

Grade Level: Third Grade

Content Areas: Reading and Social Studies

Description: During the lesson the teacher will read aloud Jimmy Buffett's book *Trouble Dolls*, then discuss with the students the sequence of the story line and formations and the importance of map reading.

Time-Line: Approx. 2 1/2 Hours: Lesson to be implemented in thirty minute segments over a five day period. Extension activities will require more time. (Depth of activities can be adjusted to meet all students' academic needs.)

Goals:

- The students will be able to understand the sequence of the story line and display character knowledge.
- The students will be able to identify animals characteristic to the Florida Key West/Everglades Region.
- The students will be able to identify on a map of Florida: The Florida Keys, Key Largo, Florida Bay, and the Everglades.
- The students will be able to identify land region as well as physical characteristic differences between northern Alabama and Key West, Florida.

Links to Curriculum Standards:

Alabama Course of Study Reading Objectives:

- Apply a wide range of strategies to interpret, evaluate, appreciate, and construct meaning from print materials.
- Demonstrate literal understanding of print material.
- Use literary analysis.
- Apply strategies of a skillful listener.
- Relate to the experiences and feelings of literary characters.

Alabama Course of Study Social Studies Objectives:

- Describe the relationship between locations of resources and patterns of population distribution in the Western Hemisphere.

- Describe physical characteristics, including landforms, bodies of water, soil, and vegetation of various places on earth.
- Identify components of various ecosystems.
- Identify geographic links of land regions, river systems, and interstate highways between Alabama and other states.

Information Literacy Objective:

- Draw a conclusion based on information gathered.

Guiding Questions:

- Lizzy Rhinehart was the Princess of what? (Tidal Flats) Where exactly is Tidal Flats?
- What kind of boat did Lizzy's father build her? (skiff/sailboat)
- What happened to Lizzy's father? (His plane went down in a swamp and he was missing.)
- What was the name of Lizzy's boat? (Parakeet) What did Lizzy use to help her find her father? (Trouble dolls) What is the Guatemala legend? (If you told the dolls your troubles and put them under your pillow, they would solve your troubles while you slept.)
- Lizzy's father, Dr. Rhinehart, was last heard on the radio over Panther Point in the Everglades. Besides looking for the star constellation Orion, what else did Lizzy use to find her way to Panther Point? (a map)
- Dr. Rhinehart was spotted by the parrot, Big Blue, in a heart-shaped lake in Puzzle Bay. Why was it called Puzzle Bay? (From the air, it looked like a big circle of bayous, streams and small lakes.)
- After Lizzy found her father, and the storm was moving in fast and cover from the storm was most important, what did Dr. Rhinehart tell Lizzy to look for on the map? (old Indian caves near Panther Point)

During Reading:

- What similarities and differences do you notice about the setting of the story and where we live?
- Why do you think map-reading is so important to sailing on the water?
- Why is reading a map important to any kind of travel?
- Do you know any legends like the legend of the trouble dolls from Guatemala?

After Reading:

- We know that Lizzy saved her father's life because she could read a map; how could you improve your map-reading skills?
- What types of animals do you think live in the Florida Everglades?
- Do we have the same animals in northern Alabama? Why or why not?

Assessment:

- Students will create a story of characters from *Trouble Dolls*.
- Students will create a map of the Florida Keys and Everglades including Florida Bay.
- The students (in groups of four) will complete a research activity on either land forms in the Everglades or animals in the Everglades. The research will be compiled and used in a PowerPoint presentation. The presentation must contain four slides, one slide by each student.
 - Slide One: Title slide with student names
 - Slide Two: Identify the animal or land form; include a picture.
 - Slide Three: Background information of the animal or land form
 - Slide Four: Research acknowledgments

Learning Connections:

- Prior to the lesson, students will identify the different regions of Alabama.
- Students will discuss the different types of animals in northern Alabama.

Curriculum Connections:

After reading the story *Trouble Dolls*, the teacher will tell the students that this author is from Alabama. The teacher can share the author's hometown and assist the students with finding this town on the Alabama state map. The students could then determine which geographic region the author lives in presently.

Learning Activities:

- The students will listen as the teacher reads the story aloud.
- The students will answer comprehension questions from the story.
- The students will participate in a discussion of similarities and differences between the story setting and our hometown.
- The students will participate in a discussion of the physical characteristics of the Florida Keys and the Everglades.
- The students will determine what types of vegetation and wildlife live in the Everglades and the Florida Keys.
- The students (in groups of four students) will complete a research activity of either land forms in the Everglades or animals in the Everglades. The research will be compiled and produced into a PowerPoint presentation.

Teaching Strategies:

- The teacher will read aloud.
- The teacher will promote discussions among students.
- The students will participate in discussions and the making of lists and/or Venn diagrams.
- Students will use technology to create their visual presentation of their research topic.
- The teacher will use technology throughout the lesson including computers, printers and the Promethean board (or Smart Board).

Management:

- The students will listen to the teacher read aloud in a designated reading center.
- Students with special needs have access to reading areas with ample room and quick exits.

Materials and Resources:

- The teacher will need *Trouble Dolls* by Jimmy Buffett and Savannah Jane Buffett.
- The teacher and students will need access to the media center as well as encyclopedias and other reference books and information sources.
- The teacher will use a Promethean board and computers in the classroom.