

ONCE UPON A TIME : STORY STRUCTURE LESSON PLAN

Grade Level: 2-3

Subject(s): Language Arts

Duration: 30 minutes

Description: Basic story structure (i.e. beginning, middle and end) is demonstrated through the lyrics of the song “Once Upon a Time.”

Materials:

- Weird Things are Everywhere! CD by Judy Pancoast
- White board or chalk board

Goals:

Students will practice listening skills

Students will identify the beginning, middle and end of the story told in the song

Students will be introduced to the concept of a “story starter”

Objectives: At the end of the lesson students will be able to tell or write a short story with a “story starter” and a clearly defined beginning, middle and end.

Procedure: Create a story structure chart on the board with spaces for “story starter,” “Beginning,” “Middle” and “End.” Begin the class with a short lesson on the elements of the structure of a short story. Call upon their prior knowledge of fairy tales and devise a chart “Beginning, Middle and End” on the board using familiar tales.

Ask the class to listen to the song “Once upon a Time.” After listening, discuss the song and add its beginning, middle and end to the list.

Talk about the words “Once Upon a Time” and ask students if they’ve heard these words before, asking them to name some stories that begin with them. Tell them that this is a “story starter” which tells the listener or reader when the story took place. Give them examples of other story starters such as “It was a dark and stormy night,” or “Late last night,” or “A long time ago, in a galaxy far, far away....”

Create a new, blank story structure chart and, as a class, create the outline of a new story.

Art Connection: Ask students to illustrate a scene from one of the sections of the new story.

Assessment: Hand out blank story structure charts and ask students to create their own outline of a story.