

TEACHER GUIDE - *Star of the Show* by Della Ross Ferreri

English Language Arts: The author uses alliteration to make the story fun to read aloud. Reread the page: “Max was perfect on the pogo stick. Francine was a juggling genius. Together, they were a hit with the hula hoops.” Challenge students to create their own fun alliterative phrases based on a circus theme. Have them illustrate their favorites.
Example: Lions love to lick lollipops.

Math: Telling Time & Word Problems: In the story, Francine asks her mother to come back for the 2:00 show. Create different word problem scenarios with the students to determine different times. Problems can be easier or harder based on grade level.

Examples:

Scenario 1: Pretend it is 11:00 in the morning. If the next show is at 2:00 that afternoon, how many hours do Francine and Max have to practice before show time?

Scenario 2: Francine and Max eat supper at 6:00. If the show goes from 2:00 to 2:30, how many hours after the show ends do they have until dinner?

Life Skills: Conflict Resolution & Creative Writing & Creative Expression:

When Francine and Max decide to put on a circus, Francine tries to run the show. She designates Max to be her assistant and won’t let him share the spotlight. Max finally gets fed up and walks out on Francine. The result is Francine’s realization that playing circus by herself is too difficult and not as much fun. Have students write about a life experience they’ve had where they needed to find a way to solve a similar problem or conflict. Have them tell what the problem was about, and how they worked it out. Brainstorm different ways to solve a problem. As an extension, students may work with a partner to invent a new conflict. They may role-play the problem and the resolution. Ask for volunteers to present to the class.

Bulletin Board Activity - Self-Esteem ‘We’re All Stars of the Show’: Ask students to think about what special talents they have. Then brainstorm as a class and make a list of everyone’s special talents...singing, dancing, playing sports, telling a funny joke, good at math, etc. Ask students to write about and/or illustrate themselves performing their special talent in the grand finale of a circus. Display the drawings.

Culminating Activity: Have the class put on a “Talent Show Circus.” Make invitations for parents. Invite the principal and other staff members. Decorate room with balloons and streamers. Have students perform their talents. Afterwards, serve pop corn, animal crackers and punch. Play circus music. Play circus games at different stations – tossing stuffed tiger through hoops, juggling, hula hoop contests, pin the nose on the clown, face painting, clown masks, balancing acts, etc. Have fun!

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