

THE CLEVER MONKEY

By Rob Cleveland

Second Grade

Outcome:

Students will demonstrate an understanding of the story through the use of discussion, writing, illustration, and dramatization.

Overview:

Students will read and explore a folktale from Western Africa while utilizing interdisciplinary connections in language arts, geography, and social studies and by understanding the cultural function of stories.

Materials:

Book The Clever Monkey

Map or globe

Pencil, paper, markers or crayons

Prop that can be used as a pretend microphone

Assessment Tools:

The Clever Monkey Comprehension worksheet

Fact or Opinion worksheet

African Proverbs worksheet

Story Re-Write Activity

On the Spot Radio Announcements worksheet

African Trivia Tellers worksheet

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INSTRUCTIONAL PLAN:

Introduction:

Teacher asks students what they know about the continent of Africa. Students locate Africa on a map or globe. Teacher asks students to find the Western part of Africa. Teacher informs students:

- Today we will read a folktale from Western Africa.
- Storytelling is a very important part of African culture.
- Storytellers dress in elaborate costumes to share their stories.
- African stories, poems, and proverbs are spoken and chanted.
- It is believed that the spoken word is more powerful than the written word.
- Traditionally Africans see the spoken word as an art, a celebration of life to be shared with all members of their community.
- They also see art as something that can teach.
- Stories help children make sense of the world. They teach history and tell about the actions and characteristics of people.
- Many stories are meant to teach a lesson, such as how to settle an argument.
- Stories reflect the values and traditions of a culture.
- There is an important lesson in the tale we will read today.
- Review elements of a story and key terms of setting, conflict, problem, characters, and resolution.

Teacher distributes the books and students read silently.

Comprehension:

Materials: The Clever Monkey Comprehension worksheet, pencil

Directions: Answer the following questions:

1. What is the setting for the story?
2. What is the conflict or problem?
3. Who are the characters?
4. What are four words to describe the cats?
5. What are four words to describe the monkey?
6. Describe how the monkey was clever.
7. How does the story end?
8. What lesson does the story teach?
9. Describe a how you could divide something in a fair and equal way.

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Language Arts:

• **Fact or Opinion**

An activity for differentiated learning.

Materials: Fact or Opinion worksheet

Teacher explains that a **fact** can be proven while an **opinion** is how you feel about a topic, and it cannot be proven.

Fact or Opinion Worksheet

Directions: Read the sentences and write F next to the sentence if it is a **fact** and O next to it if it is an **opinion**.

- Group A: Complete Worksheet A with directions above.
- Group B: Complete Worksheet B by writing F or O and underline the adjective(s) in each sentence.
- Group C: Complete Worksheet C by writing F or O, underline the adjective(s) in each sentence and if a sentence is not a fact, tell why it is an opinion.
 1. The monkey is cute.
 2. The cats found a big piece of cheese.
 3. The cats were quite selfish.
 4. The story takes place in a jungle in Africa.
 5. The cheese tastes good.
 6. The monkey is the smartest animal in the Jungle.
 7. The book has wonderful pictures.
 8. The monkey is a great actor.
 9. This is the best book I have ever read.
 10. Baird Hoffmire illustrated the book.

• **Proverbs**

Materials: African Proverbs worksheet

Teacher informs students: Proverbs are a way that Africans and people from other cultures teach lessons to their children. A well-known African proverb says, “If stretching were wealth, the cat would be rich” Class discusses what this proverb means. Teacher distributes African Proverb worksheet. Students work in small groups. Each group chooses a proverb, discusses its meaning, illustrates the proverb, and presents their proverb to the class. Teacher informs class that their drawings will be like African art because they will teach a lesson.

African Proverbs

1. A stone from home is worth ten from the riverbed.
2. A black ant will not bite another black ant.
3. No one can perform a celebration by himself.
4. A bird is in the air but its mind is on the ground.
5. A ripe melon falls by itself.
6. Having a good discussion is like having riches.
7. Every time an old man dies, it is as if a library burns down.

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Language Arts cont.:

African Proverbs cont.:

8. When the drum beat changes, the dance changes.
9. If you have no business with anybody, no one will have business with you either.
10. A family is like a forest, when you are outside it is dense; when you are inside you see that each tree has its own place.
11. Even the highest eagle comes down to the treetops to rest.
12. Do not look where you fell but where you slipped.
13. If you don't stand for something, you will fall for something.
14. It takes an entire village to raise a child.
15. The mouth, which eats, does not talk.

• **Story Re-Write**

Rewrite the story in one of the following ways:

- The characters are people instead of animals.
- The monkey does not come along in the story.
- The cats figure out a way to fairly divide the cheese.
- Choose your own criteria.

Dramatic Arts:

• **On the Spot Radio Announcements**

Students pretend to be radio announcers with an **on the spot report** about two cats who were tricked by a clever monkey. Teacher distributes worksheet. Students fill in details on the worksheet and practice being a radio announcer delivering their announcement. Each student presents his or her broadcast to the class.

On the Spot Radio Announcement worksheet

Directions: Complete worksheet by writing in the details in a lively descriptive manner. Begin broadcast with, "We interrupt this regularly scheduled program to bring you this special announcement:

Who:

What happened:

Where:

When:

How:

Other details:

End report with, "We now return you to your regularly scheduled program".

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Extension Activity:

- **Africa Trivia**

Making “Trivia Tellers” sheet

Directions: Cut along dotted lines. Place paper on desk with printed side down. Fold 4 corners in toward center, so all 4 corners meet and create a smaller square. Turn over and again fold corners in to make another smaller square. Fold top to bottom, crease and open. Rotate a quarter turn to the right, fold top to bottom again, crease and open. Place thumb and forefinger from each hand under the flaps and move fingers together to make flaps pop out. Students work in pairs. First student chooses a word or phrase from the outside flap (eat cheese, monkey, cat, or clever) and second student moves fingers in and out 1 time for each letter in the word as he or she spells the word aloud. Second student asks first student to choose one of the numbers on the flaps that are showing. Second student asks first student the trivia question on that flap. Students check answer by lifting the flap. Students can use the same pattern to create trivia tellers with their own questions and answers.

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Name _____ Date _____

Comprehension

1. What is the setting for the story?

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Fact or Opinion

Worksheet A

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Worksheet B

Fact or Opinion

Directions: Read the sentences and write **F** next to the sentence if it is a **fact** and **O** if it is an **opinion**. Underline the adjective(s) in each sentence.

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Fact or Opinion

Worksheet C

Directions: Read the sentences and write **F** next to the sentence if it is a **fact** and **O** if it is an **opinion**. Underline the adjective(s) in each sentence, and if the sentence is not a fact, tell why it is an opinion.

___ 1. The monkey is cute.

___ 2. The cats found a big piece of cheese.

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Proverbs

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Other details:

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