

# LENTIL

## LENTIL

By Robert McCloskey

Themes: Music

Grade Level: K-2

Running Time: 9 minutes, iconographic

## SUMMARY

LENTIL, a story set in a small town, involves a boy named Lentil who, because he could not sing or whistle, learns to play the harmonica. Lentil played the harmonica all day long and took his instrument with him wherever he went.

One day the town started to buzz with word that Colonel Carter, the town's most well-known citizen, would be returning. Everyone was happy about this except Old Sneep, who was a very nasty man. All kinds of festivities were planned to welcome Colonel Carter home, including a brass band which would greet him at the train.

When the train finally arrived, the only sound heard in the town was the sound of Old Sneep sucking on a lemon. The sour man knew this would make the musicians pucker up and be unable to play their instruments. A very disappointed Colonel Carter stepped off the train. Rising to the occasion, Lentil puckered up, blew on his harmonica, and filled the air with lively music! The story ends with Colonel Carter and the rest of the town continuing the celebration—even to the delight of Old Sneep!

## OBJECTIVES

- Children will learn about musical instruments.
- Children will explore problem-solving techniques.
- Children will investigate the advantages of determination and perseverance.

## BEFORE VIEWING ACTIVITIES

Share the book, LENTIL, with children. Talk with children about their favorite instruments.

Ask:

- Why do you enjoy this instrument?
- If you can play this instrument, how did you feel when you first began playing?
- What do you need to do to play the instrument well?
- How would you begin teaching someone else to play this instrument?

Distribute rhythm band instruments to children. Allow time for children to explore each of them. Ask:

- Which instruments can make very loud sounds? soft sounds?
- Which instruments are easy to hold and play?
- Which are difficult to play?

If available, have children examine and try to play harmonicas. Help them determine how sounds are made.

## AFTER VIEWING ACTIVITIES

Invite your school's music teacher, or a musician who is proficient at harmonica playing, to visit your classroom. In addition to demonstrating how the instrument is played, ask the musician to play some tunes that children are familiar with. Have children sing along with the harmonica. Later, talk with children about the ways the music made them feel. After the musician's visit, have children write thank-you notes, adding their own drawings of harmonicas to their messages.

Discuss the way Lentil used his harmonica to solve a serious problem. Ask:

- How do you think the Colonel would have felt

if everyone kept silent when he got off the train?

- What other things could Lentil have done to help with this problem?

Offer children the following hypothetical situations. Encourage children to investigate solutions to these problems, including possible musical solutions!

- If a friend needs cheering up and nothing anyone did seemed to work, what could you do?
- If you went to a friend's birthday party and everyone forgot to bring presents, what could you do for your friend?
- If a friend wanted to hear some music, and you didn't know how to play an instrument, what could you do?

Talk with children about skills they have developed that took practice and persistence. If children have difficulty calling up some of these experiences, help them by asking how they learned to tie their shoes, print with a pencil, play various sports, etc. As children talk, emphasize how determination and perseverance will help them gain skill in areas of interest to them.

Other videos about music available from Weston Woods include:

**Apt. 3** by Ezra Jack Keats

**Duke Ellington** by Andrea Davis Pinkney, ill. by Brian Pinkney

**Ella Fitzgerald: The Tale of a Vocal Virtuosa**

by Andrea Davis Pinkney, ill. by Brian Pinkney

**Musical Max** by Robert Kraus, ill. by Jose Aruego and Ariane Dewey

**Patrick** by Quentin Blake

**Really Rosie** by Maurice Sendak

**CALL 1-800-243-5020 TO ORDER THESE AND OTHER WESTON WOODS VIDEOS!**

This guide may be photocopied for free distribution without restriction

# THE HAPPY LION

## THE HAPPY LION

by Louise Fatio & Roger Duvoisin (McGraw-Hill)

Themes: Friendship/French Culture/Zoos

Grade Level: PreK – 2

Running time: 8 minutes

## SUMMARY

The setting for THE HAPPY LION is a small town in France where a lion lives happily in the town zoo. Each day passersby say "bonjour," "good day" to the lion, and each evening, "au revoir," "goodbye." The town band plays in the zoo every Sunday and the lion is very happy and content in his familiar surroundings. One morning, the zoo keeper forgets to close the door to the lion's house. The lion leaves the zoo and walks toward the center of town.

The people who cheerfully waved to the lion when he was safely behind the zoo walls are now terrified to see him loose and roaming the streets. When the lion comes upon a marching band playing through the town's main streets, the band disperses in chaos, people running here, there, and everywhere. This is all very puzzling to the lion! Finally, Francois, the Zoo Keeper's son, approaches the lion and offers to walk him back to the zoo. The lion and his new best friend, Francois, happily walk through the streets of the town until they reach the zoo, safe and sound.

## OBJECTIVES

- Children will learn about French culture
- Children will explore how information can reduce fears
- Children will investigate the idea that "the grass is always greener."

## BEFORE VIEWING ACTIVITIES

Share the book THE HAPPY LION with children. Locate France on a map. Then locate where the children live.

Talk with children about visits they may have taken to zoos. Ask:

- What kinds of animals did you see there?
- Which were your favorites? Why?
- How were the animals cared for in the zoo?

Provide children with long lengths of string, construction paper, crayons and scissors. Have children draw and cut out zoo animals. Label the drawings. Then attach lengths of string to each animal cut-out, and tie them to coat hangers to make zoo mobiles. Hang the mobiles from the classroom ceiling.

Show children photographs and/or illustrations of France. As children study the pictures, discuss the similarities and differences between the homes, shops, streets, and landscapes of the country as compared to our own. Introduce some French words to children, including "bonjour" and "au revoir."

## AFTER VIEWING ACTIVITIES

Talk with children about the way the lion felt when the people reacted to him fearfully. Ask:

- Why do you think the townspeople were so afraid when they saw the lion walking the streets?
- How would you feel if you saw a lion walking toward you in your neighborhood?
- Why wasn't Francois afraid of the lion?
- If Francois didn't know that this was the lion from the zoo, do you think he would have been afraid too?
- How does having information about something help you not to feel afraid?
- What things are you afraid of?
- What might help you feel better about these things?

As you talk, emphasize to children that asking questions, looking for information in books and talking to adults are all important ways of finding things out.

Have children recall how the lion felt at the beginning of the story, when he was walking through the town, and when he was back home again. Help children grapple with the idea that "the grass is always greener: by participating in a performance involving a king, his subjects, and the townspeople. Encourage the "townspeople" to make demands of the "king" and the "king" in turn, to make demands of his "staff." When the play is over, ask children:

- How would you feel about being a king after being involved in this play?
  - What would be the most fun about being the king?
  - What would be difficult?
  - What would you miss about being an ordinary person?
- As children discuss these questions, help them to see that what appears to be better than what is right at hand may, in reality, not be the case.

Talk with children about the things they enjoy about their own homes, school, friends, family, etc. As children describe these things, help them to take note of all those aspects of their lives that make them feel happy. Explain that sometimes we are so busy thinking about things we don't like, or about what is not going as we think it should, that we forget to think about the wonderful things in our lives. Later, have children write about those things in their lives that make them happy.

## Other videos and films about French culture and zoos available from Weston Woods include:

THE BEAST OF MONSIEUR RACINE by Tomi Ungerer  
GOOD NIGHT, GORILLA by Peggy Rathmann  
I, CROCODILE by Fred Marcellino  
MIRETTE ON THE HIGH WIRE by Emily Arnold McCully  
STONE SOUP by Marcia Brown

**CALL 1-800-243-5020 TO ORDER THESE AND OTHER WESTON WOODS VIDEOS!**

This guide may be photocopied for free distribution without restriction

# GOGGLES!

Goggles!

by Ezra Jack Keats (MacMillan)

Themes: Friendship/City Living

Level: Grades K - 2

Length: 6 minutes, iconographic

## Summary

The focus of Goggles! is the friendship between two boys, Peter and Archie.

One day, Peter discovers a wonderful pair of motorcycle goggles and shows them to his friend Archie. Just then, several "big boys" come and knock Peter to the ground. The goggles fall near Peter's dog Willie, who snatches them and runs away. The boys chase Peter and Archie, who run to their secret hideout for protection.

It isn't long before Willie meets up with Peter and Archie and delivers the goggles, safe and sound. The story concludes with the big boys chasing Peter and Archie who successfully send them off the track. The final scene finds Peter and Archie sitting on the steps of Archie's home with Archie trying on the goggles.

## Objectives

- Children will explore the meaning of friendship
- Children will learn about pets and ways to care for them
- Children will participate in a dramatization

## Before Viewing Activities

Share the book Goggles! with children. Talk with children about their friendships. Ask: What do you like most about your friends? What kinds of things do you do together? Why is it helpful to have a friend when you're feeling sad? happy? lonely?

Talk with children about the pets they have or would like to have. Ask children with pets: How do you care for your pet? What do you do with your pet to have fun? Where does your pet sleep? What do you like most about having a pet? Ask children who do not own pets: What kind of pet would you like to have? Why? How do you think your life would be different if you had a pet? Discuss how it would be to have a pet in the city? in the country?

## After Viewing Activities

Talk with children about the secret hideout that Peter and Archie shared. Ask: What do you think it looked like inside the hideout? What kinds of things do you think Peter, Archie and Willie do there? What would you do in your secret hideout if you had one? Talk about the differences between a "city" hideout and a "country" hideout. Have children create stories entitled "My Secret Hideout". Display the stories on a classroom wall

or bulletin board.

Give children an opportunity to dramatize the story Goggles! Supply a pair of swimming goggles, long cardboard tubes or plastic toy tunnels to represent pipes, and hats for the "big boys" that children can use as props. After the performances, encourage children to talk about how Peter and Archie, and Peter and Willie, felt about one another after having had some first hand experience.

Other book based films and videos about friendship are available from Weston Woods. These include:

ANDY AND THE LION by James Daugherty

APT. 3 by Ezra Jack Keats

THE BEAST OF MONSIEUR RACINE by Tomi Ungerer

THE CATERPILLAR AND THE POLLIWOG by Jack Kent

DANNY AND THE DINOSAUR by Syd Hoff

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, MOON by Frank Asch

THE HAPPY LION written by Louise Fatio and illustrated by Roger Duvoisin

THE ISLAND OF THE SKOG by Steven Kellogg

MIKE MULLIGAN AND HIS STEAM SHOVEL by Virginia Lee Burton

THE PIGS' WEDDING by Helme Heine

**CALL 1-800-243-5020 TO ORDER THESE AND OTHER WESTON WOODS VIDEOS!**

This guide may be photocopied for free distribution without restriction