

GEORGIE

Georgie
by Robert Bright (Doubleday)
Themes: Halloween/Home Sweet Home
Level: Grades K - 2
Length: 6 minutes, iconographic

Summary

This is the tale of a nice ghost named Georgie who lives in the attic of a home belonging to elderly Mr. and Mrs. Whittaker. Georgie is comfortable here with his routine of coming down the creaky stairs every evening and opening the squeaky door to the Whittakers' parlor. These sounds signaled to the Whittakers that it was time to go to sleep, signaled to the pet cat that it was time to go prowling, and signaled to the owl outside that it was time to begin whooping.

One day, Mr. Whittaker repairs the creaky stair and squeaky door. This leaves poor Georgie without a purpose! He decides to find another house to haunt but has no luck. Eventually, while Georgie visits an old cow barn and freezes during the cold winter, the owl comes to Georgie to tell him that the board on the Whittakers' stair and the hinges on the parlor door are once again creaking and squeaking. Good news for Georgie! Georgie flies home at once and everyone in the Whittaker house settles back into their happy routine.

Objectives

- Children will learn to appreciate home and family members
- Children will explore their fears
- Children will investigate those things that contribute

to the mood of scary stories on Halloween

Before Viewing Activities

Share the book *Georgie* with children. Talk with children about the things that make them think of Halloween. As children discuss Halloween celebrations and the mood of the event, ask: What is the scariest part of Halloween? What do you like most about it? What was your favorite Halloween costume?

Discuss children's home routines. Ask: When is your bedtime? What do you do before bedtime? What do you do when you wake up in the morning? What happens when you get home from school each day?

After Viewing Activities

Supply children with art supplies that they can use to create their own version of *Georgie and the Whittaker home*. Include pieces of tagboard, white and black construction paper, scissors, crayons, and paste. Later, have children share their artwork and retell the story of "Georgie" to their classmates.

Remind children of the peace and contentment *Georgie, the Whittakers, the cat, and the owl* felt with their nightly routine in the beginning. Then talk with children about their own family members and pets. Ask: What do you like most about being part of your family? What is your favorite time with your family? What other things do you do together? How would you feel if your favorite times together were disturbed? As children discuss these questions, help them to appreciate those everyday experiences that happen in families to make family members feel a sense of

belonging and contentment.

Have children think about what might have happened if *Georgie* had stayed in the house after Mr. Whittaker repaired the stair and door hinges. Ask: What other things could *Georgie* have done to be important to the family? Have children dictate or write their own *Georgie* stories based on this idea.

Other book based films and videos about Halloween and *Home Sweet Home* are available from Weston Woods. These include:

Halloween:

A DARK DARK TALE by Ruth Brown
TEENY-TINY AND THE WITCH WOMAN written by Barbara Walker and illustrated by Michael Foreman

THE THREE ROBBERS by Tomi Ungerer

THE TRIP by Ezra Jack Keats

WHAT'S UNDER MY BED? by James Stevenson

WHERE THE WILD THINGS ARE by Maurice Sendak

Home Sweet Home

THE COW WHO FELL IN THE CANAL written by Phyllis Krasilovsky and illustrated by Peter Spier

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, MOON by Frank Asch

JOEY RUNS AWAY by Jack Kent

MADLINE AND THE GYPSIES by Ludwig Bemelmans

MOON MAN by Tomi Ungerer

PANAMA by Janosch

THE SELKIE GIRL written by Susan Cooper and illustrated by Warwick Hutton

THE STORY ABOUT PING written by Marjorie Flack and illustrated by Kurt Wiese

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THE THREE ROBBERS

The Three Robbers

by Tomi Ungerer (Antheum)

Themes: Scary Stories

Grade Level: K-2

Running Time: 6 minutes, animated

Summary

The Three Robbers is the story of three men who roam about at night frightening and stealing from people. Each night, the robbers would carry their stolen loot to their cave in the mountains.

One night, the robbers stop a carriage, only to find nothing to steal except one very unhappy little girl who is delighted to be carried away. Eventually, the robbers snatch up all of the abandoned, unhappy children and use their stolen money to buy a castle where they could all live together.

As time passes, the children grow to adulthood and build homes around the castle. The story ends with an entire village being created around the castle of the three robbers. The villagers, all former abandoned children, erect three tall towers in honor of their three foster parents--the three robbers.

Objectives

- Children will enjoy the mystery and suspense of a scary story
- Children will investigate their own feelings regarding what they consider to be appropriate and inappropriate behavior
- Children will explore the different ways people demonstrate caring towards one another

Before Viewing Activities

Share the book, The Three Robbers, with children.

Then ask:

Since the robbers didn't think about spending the money they stole, why do you think they wanted to do it in the first place? Do you think their feelings about stealing changed at the end of the story? Why? Why not?

Talk with children about scary stories they are familiar with. Ask: What was it about the stories that made them seem so scary? How did you feel while you were listening to/reading/watching the story? As children watch, encourage them to think about the ways the music, colors, and quick-paced action contribute to the scary feeling of the story.

Play a variety of musical pieces for children. Include in your selections music that creates a suspenseful or frightening mood. As children listen to each piece, have them describe the way the music makes them feel.

After Viewing Activities

Have children perform a dramatization of the story of The Three Robbers. Supply paper hats and capes cut from both red and black construction paper, ropes and blankets which can be used to create tentlike structures to represent the robbers' cave and the cattle, and a large box filled with coins and jewelry cut from construction paper. Provide art materials such as pieces of flat and cylinder-shaped cardboard, boxes of various sizes, and other appropriate materials that

children can use to make a pepper-blower, blunderbuss, and axe. Also have children work together to paint a village scene, with three tall towers, on a large sheet of kraft paper. Invite other classes to watch your colorful, scary rendition of The Three Robbers!

Talk with children about the activities of the robbers. Ask: Was it right for the robbers to take the abandoned children? Why? Why not? How do you think the robbers felt about the children? How do you think the children felt about the robbers? If you were one of the abandoned children that the robbers took, how would you have felt about the robbers? What do you think you might have chosen to do when you grew up?

Discuss the different ways the robbers showed caring toward the children and the ways the children showed the robbers that they cared for them when they grew up. Ask: How do you know when someone cares for you? What do you do to let other people know that you care for them? Allow children to use some class time to write a note to someone they care for.

Other book based films and videos that are scary stories are available from Weston Woods. These include: A DARK, DARK TALE by Ruth Brown
GEORGIE by Robert Bright
KING OF THE CATS by Paul Galdone
TEENY-TINY AND THE WITCH-WOMAN written by Barbara Walker and illustrated by Michael Foreman
THE TRIP by Ezra Jack Keats
WHAT'S UNDER MY BED? by James Stevenson
WHERE THE WILD THINGS ARE by Maurice Sendak

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A DARK DARK TALE

A Dark Dark Tale

By Ruth Brown (Dial)

Themes: Suspense

Level: Grades K - 3

Length: 4 minutes, iconographic

Summary

A DARK DARK TALE takes the viewer through a dark moor, to a dark wood, to a dark house, and on and on until a dark box is discovered in the corner of a dark cupboard. The eerie music and the dark colors of the journey from the moor to inside the castle work to hold children in suspense until they finally discover what is inside the dark box--a mouse! The surprise ending is a welcome relief to the tension of this exciting story. A wonderful experience to share with children at Halloween time, or anytime!

Objectives

- Children will begin to appreciate suspense in a story
- Children will think about the ways music and color contribute to creating mood.
- Children will try to think critically

Before Viewing Activities

Share the book *A Dark Dark Tale* with children. Talk with children about scary stories they may be familiar with. Encourage children to share these stories with classmates.

Ask children if they have ever been in a dark room or building. Ask: How did it feel to be inside the room/building? What kinds of things did you think about? What was most frightening about being there? What would make you feel better about being in a dark place? How do you feel on Halloween night?

Talk with children about what they think a castle would look like inside. Ask: How do you think a castle would be different from your own home? How many rooms do you think a castle would have? What would the kitchen look like? the bedrooms? What would you like most/least about living in a castle? Give children an opportunity to draw their own castles and describe them to their classmates.

After Viewing Activities

Give children an opportunity to recreate the ending to *A Dark Dark Tale*. Ask: What other things might have been in the box in the corner of the cupboard? How would this make children watching feel? Help children to write or dictate their own versions of *A Dark Dark Tale*. Later, have children illustrate their stories and display them on a classroom wall for everyone to enjoy.

Talk with children about the background music and other sounds they heard. Ask: How did the music make you feel? How would you have felt differently about the story if the music was light and happy? What sounds did you hear that made the

story seem scary?

Play a variety of instrumental pieces on your classroom record player or tape recorder. Include light, happy music; low, sad sounding tunes; slow, dreamy music; bold, brisk marching band music. As children listen, encourage them to describe the way each musical piece makes them feel.

Encourage children to think critically by helping them recall all of the elements that contributed to the scary mood. In addition to the music, have children think about other changes that could be made to make it a light, happy story or a quiet bedtime story.

Other book based films and videos appropriate for the Halloween season or anytime a scary story would be enjoyable are available from Weston Woods. These include:

GEORGIE by Robert Bright

JACKIE TORRENCE: TWO WHITE HORSES by Jackie Torrence

KING OF THE CATS by Paul Galdone

TEENY-TINY AND THE WITCH-WOMAN written by Barbara Walker and illustrated by Michael Foreman

THE THREE ROBBERS by Tomi Ungerer

THE TRIP by Ezra Jack Keats

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KING OF THE CATS

KING OF THE CATS

By Paul Galdone

Themes: Mystery/Halloween

Grade Level:K-2

Running Time: 5 minutes, iconographic

SUMMARY

KING OF THE CATS is the story of a gravedigger who returns home to his wife and cat with a story that is beyond belief. The gravedigger informs his wife that a group of cats was marching along and carrying a coffin toward him as he worked beside one of the graves. Finally, when the cats approached him, the message given to him by the leader of the cats was, "Tell Tom Tildrum that Tim Toldrum's dead." Well, this threw the gravedigger into a tizzy. How, he asked his wife, was he to tell this to Tom Tildrum when he didn't even know who Tom Tildrum was!

At the very moment that the gravedigger says these words, his own black cat shrieked out, "What—old Tim dead! Then I, Tom Tildrum, am King of the Cats!" This provided the answer to the gravedigger's question regarding who Tom Tildrum might be! This mysterious breath-holder ends with the cat rushing up the chimney, never to be seen again by the gravedigger and his wife.

OBJECTIVES

- Children will enjoy a suspense-filled mystery story.
- Children will learn about the way sounds

and body language contribute to the eerie, suspenseful feeling of a mystery story.

BEFORE VIEWING ACTIVITIES

Share the book, KING OF THE CATS, with children. Talk with children about scary stories they may have read, heard or seen.

Ask:

- What made the story scary?
- When did the story take place?
- How did you feel while you were listening to the story?
- How did you feel at the end of the story?
- What did the people in the story do or say that made you feel frightened?
- How did the people look when they said these things?

Provide a piece of black construction paper and white chalk for each child. Have children use the materials to create night scenes. Later, as children share their drawings, ask:

- How does it feel to be outdoors at night?
- What do you like most/least about it?

AFTER VIEWING ACTIVITIES

Have children tell their own mystery stories into a tape recorder. Before beginning, review with children the elements of King of the Cats that contributed to making the story mysterious and exciting. When all the stories have been recorded, turn off the classroom light, pull the blinds and let children enjoy the suspenseful stories created by their own classmates!

Give children an opportunity to write or dictate their own follow-up story to KING OF THE CATS. Ask:

- Where do you think the gravedigger's cat went when he discovered that he was now king of the cats?
- What kinds of things would he do as king of the cats?

Later, allow children to add drawings to their stories and display them on a classroom wall or bulletin board.

Talk with children about the ways the sounds and voices in the video contributed to its eerie effect. Encourage children to try to recall the sounds that made them sit up in their seats or feel a bit frightened as they watched. Then play a variety of recordings for children, some eerie, others light and happy. As children listen, encourage them to discuss how the music makes them feel.

Other videos about scary stories available from Weston Woods include:

A Dark, Dark Tale by Ruth Brown

Georgie by Robert Bright

Teeny-Tiny and the Witch-Woman by Barbara Walker, ill. by Michael Foreman

The Three Robbers by Tomi Ungerer

The Trip by Ezra JackKeats

What's Under My Bed? by James Stevenson

Where The Wild Things Are by Maurice Sendak

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