

MISS NELSON IS BACK

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Book by Harry Allard, illustrated by James Marshall

Themes: School/ Substitute Teachers

Grade Level: K-2

Running Time: 13:00

SUMMARY

When Miss Nelson leaves to have her tonsils out, the kids in Room 207 prepare to “act up”. Warned about the mean substitute Viola Swamp, they create a Miss Nelson lookalike to get rid of boring Mr. Blandsworth, the principal, until the real “Swamp” shows up to set things straight.

OBJECTIVES

- Children will discuss their feeling about school.
- Children will investigate substitute teachers.
- Children will explore problem solving techniques.

BEFORE VIEWING ACTIVITIES

Share the book *Miss Nelson Is Back* with children. Then ask:

- How do you think the children felt about Miss Nelson leaving?
- How do you think they felt about having Viola Swamp as a substitute?
- What kinds of things could Mr. Blandsworth have done to make the class more exciting?
- How do you think Miss Nelson felt when she discovered what the children had done?

Encourage children to talk about the kind of substitute they might like to have if you had to be away for awhile. Ask:

- What kinds of things would you like the substitute teacher to do with you?
- What kind of personality would you like the substitute to have?
- What things could you do to help the substitute teacher feel welcome?

Give children an opportunity to draw both a nice and not nice substitute teacher. Have the children describe their drawings, discussing the differences between the two teachers.

AFTER VIEWING ACTIVITIES

- Talk with children about their favorite characters from the book. Provide children with paper plates, markers, art scraps (yarn, ribbon, pieces of fabric, pieces of felt) scissors, and glue. Have children use the materials on the paper plates to create paper plate masks that represent their favorite characters. When children have finished, punch holes in the sides of the plates and string yarn through the holes so that children can wear the masks. Give each child an opportunity to model his or her mask for classmates. See if children can identify the characters the masks represent.
- Have children recall the collection of pens Mr. Blandsworth shared with the children in Miss Nelson’s class. Then have children describe the

things they collect. Encourage children to bring in

their collections and share them with their classmates.

- Remind children of the way Miss Nelson uncovered what was going on in school during her absence. Have children talk about their feelings regarding what Miss Nelson did to the class. Ask:
 - Do you think Miss Nelson found a good way to solve the problem?
 - What else could Miss Nelson have done to stop what was going on in her class?
 - What would you have done if you were Miss Nelson?
 - Do you think the children will ever try to dress up as Miss Nelson again? Why? Why not?

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