

MONTY

Monty

by James Stevenson (Greenwillow)

Theme:

Appreciation/Ingenuity/Alligators

Grade Level: Pre-K - 1

Running Time: 7 minutes, animated

Summary

This is the story of a sleepy alligator-taxi named Monty who has an important job. Each day Arthur the frog, Doris the duck, and Tom the rabbit ride on Monty's back across the river to and from school. The three friends complain about Monty's wobbling, his speed, and anything else they can think of all the way there and all the way back. One day, Monty decides to take an alligator vacation from his three friends who are left to find their own way across the river.

Objectives

- Children will learn to appreciate and value the kindness of others.
- Children will enjoy a humorous story.
- Children will enjoy problem-solving techniques.

Before-Viewing Activities

Share the book Monty with the children. Ask:

- o Why do you think Monty decided to take a vacation from his friends?
- o Which of the ways for crossing the river did you like best? Why?
- o Did you think Monty was going to wait for his friends to get out of school at the end of the story? How could you tell?

Talk with children about the different ways the three friends tried to get across the river after Monty refused to carry them. Ask: What would you have done to get across the river if you were one of the three friends? Have children take turns explaining to the class just how their ideas would work.

Discuss the physical characteristics that made Monty effective as a boat across the water. Then have children explore the special physical characteristics of other animals by asking: What kind of animal might have helped the three friends reach the top of a tree? (giraffe) What kind of animal might have helped the three friends find their way in the dark? (owl) What kind of animal might have given the three friends a ride through the air? (bird)

After Viewing Activities

Take children on a field trip to a body of water (lake, stream, pond, etc.) in your area. Discuss the plant and animal life inside and around the body of water. Help children compare the water habitat to other natural habitats. When you return to the classroom, offer children a story starter about an imaginary creature that lives in the body of water you just visited. Print children's contributions as they work together to create a story prompted by the story starter. (Children might want to add illustrations to the completed story for display on a classroom wall or bulletin board.)

Ask children to think about those parts of the story they found the most humorous. Then have children

share with the class other humorous stories they may be familiar with or want to invent. Later, talk with children about how they feel after hearing a humorous story, sad story, scary story, etc.

Remind children of the ways Monty's friends came to appreciate him in the story. Then have children describe some of the characteristics they most appreciate in one of their friends, family members, or pets. Ask: How do you feel when you spend time with these people/pets? What kinds of things can you do for these people/pets to let them know that you appreciate them?

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