

THE THREE LITTLE PIGS

The Three Little Pigs

by James Marshall (Dial)

Themes: Fairy Tales

Grade Level: Pre K-1

Running Time: 8 minutes, animated

Summary

The Three Little Pigs is a version of the familiar story we have enjoyed through the years. This particular version, however, has a kind of contemporary twist. For example, when the second little pig offers to buy sticks to build a house from the man selling them, the man replies, "I'd think twice about that." The pig responds back with "Oh, pooh."

The story is introduced as a play starring three brilliant pig actors. When the curtain is drawn at the end of the stories, the three pigs appear on stage once again, to accept their applause and make their bows, along with the wolf.

Objectives

- Children will enjoy a modern day version of The Three Little Pigs
- Children will explore problem-solving techniques as they watch the third little pig deal with an array of dilemmas.
- Children will exercise critical thinking skills as they consider the decisions of each pig regarding the building of their homes

Before Viewing Activities

Share the book *The Three Little Pigs* with children.

Then ask:

If you were one of the three little pigs, what would you have done to get rid of the wolf?

Talk with children about their favorite fairy tales.

Ask: What do you enjoy most about these stories?

If you could be a fairy tale character, whom would you be? Why? Make a list of fairy tales children in the group are familiar with. Then ask: Which of these fairy tales makes you feel frightened? Why? Which makes you feel sad? worried? happy?

Take a walk around your school's neighborhood with children. Encourage children to look carefully at the different types of homes they see along the walk. (If homes are not within walking distance of your school, arrange a field trip to a neighborhood where children can observe a variety of homes.) Ask children to describe the colors of the homes, the materials used to build them, the arrangement of windows and doors, the numbers of floors, etc.

Choose different children in the class to dramatize the characters in the story.

After Viewing Activities

Talk with children about the ways the third little pig out-smarted the wolf. Encourage children to try and think of other things the pig might have done to fend off the wolf. Have children consider what the three pigs might have done together to keep the wolf at bay.

Give children an opportunity to think about what the wolf's home might look like. Ask: What do you think the wolf might use to build his home? What kinds of things would be inside the wolf's house? What kind of neighborhood would the wolf live in? Have children create drawings of the wolf's house and share them with the class.

Talk with children about how the voice and the music affected the animated production.

Have children dramatize characters from different fairy tales performing appropriate actions. For example, a child might pretend to be Jack climbing a beanstalk. Another might pretend to be a bear looking at an empty bowl of porridge. As children take turns dramatizing these characters, see if others in the class can identify the characters being represented. (If the class cannot guess from the actions alone, allow children to talk as the character to help the class along.)

Other book based films and videos based on fairy tales are available from Weston Woods. These include:

THE FISHERMAN AND HIS WIFE by Wanda Gag

GOLDILOCKS AND THE THREE BEARS by James Marshall

RED RIDING HOOD by James Marshall

THE THREE LITTLE PIGS by Erik Bldgvad

THE THREE BILLY GOATS GRUFF written by P.C. Asbjornsen and J.E. Moe and illustrated by Marcia Brown

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