

WHO'S IN RABBIT'S HOUSE?

WHO'S IN RABBIT'S HOUSE?

By Verna Aardema & illustrated by Leo & Diane Dillon (Dial Books for Young Readers)

Themes: African Culture/Folktales

Grade Level: Pre-K-2

Running Time: 13 minutes

SUMMARY

WHO'S IN RABBIT'S HOUSE? is an African folktale, presented as a play, about a rabbit whose home becomes inhabited by a mean creature called "The Long One." Rabbit's animal friends come by, one by one, and see Rabbit sitting outside her home. When they ask what is happening, Rabbit desperately explains that she cannot find a way to remove the awful creature from her home. Finally, desperate to move back in, Rabbit allows Frog to try out his ingenious plan to remove the scary creature from her home.

OBJECTIVES

- Children will explore African culture.
- Children will learn about plays and elements of drama.
- Children will explore problem-solving techniques.

BEFORE VIEWING ACTIVITIES

Share the book WHO'S IN RABBIT'S HOUSE?

- Locate Africa on a map. Point out the different terrains, talk about the climate, clothing worn by African tribes, and various customs. Have children compare these to the terrains, climate and customs of our country.

Help children understand that folktales are stories passed down from one generation to the next.

Then give children an opportunity to create a tale of their own. Start with a story starter such as: The night wind blew so hard that ever leaf flew off every tree in the town...Give each child a chance to contribute to the story. Print the tale as the children tell it. Encourage children to add illustrations to the story.

AFTER VIEWING ACTIVITIES

Talk with children about the different ways Rabbit's friends try to solve her problem. Then ask:

- Why is Rabbit unhappy with how her friends try to remove the creature from her home?
- How do you think Frog feels when Rabbit tells him to go away?
- How does Frog remove the creature from the house?
- How do you feel about Frog when he does this?
- Do you think Frog and Rabbit may be friends from now on? Why? Why not?

Supply paper plates, yarn, and other art materials children can use to create rabbit, frog, jackal, leopard, elephant, and rhinoceros masks. Then have children use the masks as they perform their own dramatic version of WHO'S IN RABBIT'S HOUSE? Children may want to create scenic backdrops and decorate a cardboard box to resemble Rabbit's house to enhance their performance. Talk with children about the various characters in the story. Encourage children to imagine that the characters are people.

Ask:

- What kind of person do you think Rabbit would be? Frog? Jackal?
- Which of these people would you like best?

Why?

- Which would you like least? Why?

Later, talk with children about the personality traits of friends they particularly enjoy. Give children an opportunity to explore problem-solving techniques. Have children close their eyes and place an object inside a box. Tell children: "There is something in this box. What can you do, without opening the box, to try and find out what's inside?" Encourage children to think of as many ways as they can to solve this problem.

Other videos and films about African Culture and Folktales available from Weston Woods include:

African Culture

HOT HIPPO by Mwenye Hadithi & illustrated by Adrienne Kennaway

MUFARO'S BEAUTIFUL DAUGHTERS by John Stepoe

A STORY- A STORY by Gail E. Haley

THE VILLAGE OF ROUND AND SQUARE-HOUSES by Ann Grifalconi

WHY MOSQUITOES BUZZ IN PEOPLE'S EARS by Verna Aardema & illustrated by Leo & Diane Dillon

Folktales

STONE SOUP by Marcia Brown

THE STONECUTTER by Gerald McDermott

THE THREE BILLY GOATS GRUFF by Marcia Brown

TIKKI TIKKI TEMBO by Arlene Mosel & illustrated by Blain Lent

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

This guide may be photocopied for free distribution without restriction