

THE CLEVER MONKEY

By Rob Cleveland

First Grade

Outcome:

Students will demonstrate an understanding of the story through the use of reading, discussion, writing, illustration and dramatization.

Overview:

Students will read and explore a folktale from Western Africa while utilizing the interdisciplinary connections in language arts, geography, reading, and social studies.

Materials:

Book The Clever Monkey

Map or globe

Pencil, paper, scissors, crayons or markers

Assessment Tools:

Phonics worksheet

Monkey Adjectives worksheet

Sequencing Sentences worksheet

Inferences worksheet

Skit Planning worksheet

INSTRUCTIONAL PLAN:

Introduction:

Bring your map or globe and have students sit in a circle. Ask students what they know about Africa.

Inform students:

- Africa is the second largest continent.
- Africa is so large that 4 continents the size of Australia could fit into Africa.
- Africa has a strong oral tradition. The spoken word is much more powerful than the written word.
- Africans think of the spoken word as an art, which should be shared with everyone in their community.
- Africans think that stories are like life. They recognize that like life, stories change. When stories are repeated, in time they do change. There might be changes in the storyteller's costume, new parts of the story may be added or small changes in the story itself may be made.
- Art in Africa is not just for fun, for it always has a purpose.
- Stories and poems are used to teach duties and beliefs of the community. These beliefs are usually passed down from parents and grandparents to children.
- The stories have meanings on many levels and listeners understand the story according to their age. All listeners learn something from these stories.
- Storytellers also play musical instruments to make their stories even more exciting.
- There are many kinds of tales (stories) that are an important part of African culture.
- Trickster tales are very popular. They involve a clever character who outwits people and animals.

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Introduction cont.:

- Give each student a copy of the book, The Clever Monkey. Identify title, author, and illustrator.
- Explain that this is a folktale from Western Africa.
- Define the word clever, provide synonyms, and have students identify someone who is clever.
- Have students follow along as you read.

Discussion:

Questions to assess comprehension and interpretation of story.

- Who are the characters in the story?
- Where does this story take place?
- What is the conflict or problem the cats have?
- Was the monkey helpful?
- Does this story have a happy ending?
- What lesson can you learn from this story?

Phonics:

An activity for differentiated learning.

Materials: Phonics worksheet, pencil

The monkey ate the cheese bit by bit. There are many words that rhyme with bit. They can be created by adding letters and blends to the letters that make up the word family /it/.

- Group A—Worksheet A: Complete the worksheet by adding the beginning letters of the words. Add these letters to the base letters, /it/, to make words: f, h k l m p s w sp, spl, gr, sl
- Group B—Worksheet B: Worksheet B does not have suggested letters to create the words.
- Group C—Worksheet C: Create words and write sentences using these words.

Language Arts:

Activities for differentiated learning.

• **Adjectives**

Materials: Monkey Adjectives worksheet

Teacher explains that the word ‘monkey’ is a noun. A noun is a person, place, thing, animal, or idea. Write a noun on the board, and list two adjectives. Ask students to supply additional describing words. Select another noun and repeat. Reiterate that adjectives are words that describe nouns. The title of the book contains a noun (monkey) and an adjective (clever). Have students decide which word is the noun and which word is the adjective. The word ‘clever’ describes the ‘monkey’.

- Group A: Complete Monkey Adjectives worksheet with a partner.
- Group B: Complete Monkey Adjectives worksheet with partner and take turns creating sentences about the monkey using the adjectives. Each student writes down 5 of the sentences.
- Group C: Working individually, complete Monkey Adjectives worksheet. Write 10 sentences about the monkey using as many adjectives as possible.

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Language Arts cont.:

Adjectives cont.:

Directions: Cut out the picture of the monkey and all of the adjective words. Place the words that describe the monkey on top of the picture of the monkey. Place the words that do not describe the monkey to the side. As a class, review which words students chose to describe the monkey. Some of the adjectives are subject to individual opinions. Allow students to explain why they chose adjectives others did not choose.

Words on worksheet:

Old smart big many clever soft bad fat silly long flat sweet ill nice cute tall
slow cold hot wet ugly good cheerful fair happy kind lucky helpful brave
hungry hurt scary upset rich

- **Sequencing**

Materials: Sequencing Sentences worksheet, scissors

Directions: Each sentence describes part of the story. Students cut sentences and sequence the sentences to tell the main events of the story in chronological order.

One cat asked, "How should we divide the cheese?"

In a jungle in West Africa two cats found a piece of cheese.

The monkey swung down from the tree.

The cats argued trying to figure out how to divide the cheese in a fair way.

The monkey kept eating bits of the cheese and saying the pieces were not equal.

The cat continued to argue about whose piece of cheese is bigger.

A monkey was in the tree above watching the cats.

The monkey left the cats each with a tiny bit of cheese, and said, "Enjoy your cheese my friends".

The monkey offered to divide the cheese.

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Language Arts cont.:

• **Inference**

Materials: Inference worksheet, pencil

Directions: Monkey is very clever because he reads a lot of books. He likes books about animals. Circle the books that the monkey would like to read.

FAT CAT The Drum How Tiger Got His Stripes The Magic Apple

The Clever Monkey Cool Cats Counting Stone Soup

The Pig Who Went Home Sunday The Girl Who Wore Too Much

Bear's All Night Party Why Alligator Hates Dog Party People

Jack and the Animals The Dancing Turtle Under One Flag

Grandma's Boy Wolf Under the Bed

• **Writing**

What would the cats have done if the monkey did not swing down from the tree?

Draw a picture of how you think the story might have ended. Write a paragraph to explain your picture.

Dramatic Arts:

In groups of 3, students create a skit about the book. In order to plan their skit, students use Skit-Planning worksheet. Teacher reviews terms: characters, plot, and setting.

Who are the main characters?

Where does the story take place?

What is the plot (main idea)?

What are the important events in the story?

How does the story end?

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Name _____ Date _____

Creating Words

Worksheet A

Directions: Add these letters to the base letters, it, to make words: f, h, k, l, m, p, s, w, sp, spl, gr, sl.

_____ it

_____ it

_____ it

_____ it

_____ it

_____ it

_____ it

_____ it

_____ it

_____ it

_____ it

_____ it

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Creating Words

Worksheet B

Directions: Add letters to the base letters, it, to make words.

_____ it

_____ it

_____ it

_____ it

_____ it

_____ it

_____ it

_____ it

_____ it

_____ it

_____ it

_____ it

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Name _____ Date _____

Creating Words

Worksheet C

Directions: Complete Worksheet B. Choose 6 of the words you created and write a sentence with each word.

___ it

___ it

___ it

___ it

___ it

___ it

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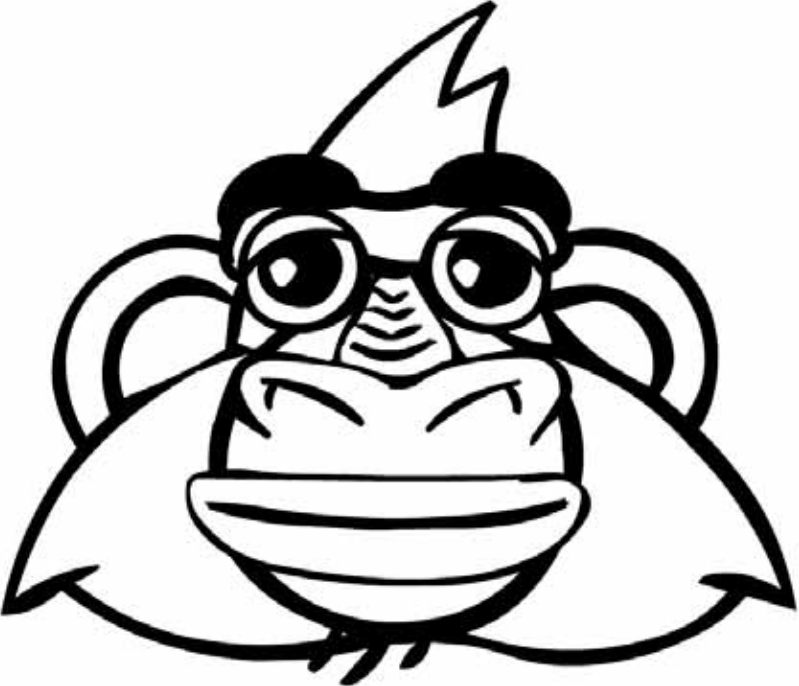
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Monkey Adjective

Directions: Cut out the picture of the monkey and all of the adjective words. Place the words that describe the monkey on top of the picture of the monkey. Place the words that do not describe the monkey to the side.

old	cold				
smart	hot				
big	wet				
many	ugly				
clever	good				
soft	cheerful				
bad	fair				
fat	happy				
silly	kind	brave	sweet	scary	cute
long	lucky	hungry	ill	upset	tall
flat	helpful	hurt	nice	rich	slow

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Sequencing Sentences

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Inference

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Skit Planning

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Where does the story take place?

What is the plot (main idea)?

What are the important events in the story?

How does the story end?
