

When I was A Girl... I Dreamed

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Summary

This story, told from the point of view of an older woman, talks about the power of dreaming great and beautiful dreams when she was young.

Ideas for Classroom use

Discussion questions - encourage children to find examples from the story to document their answers.

What are some of the various careers the woman dreamt about when she was young?

Which of her dreams do you think were the most imaginative?

Were all of the woman's dreams attainable? Why or why not?

Do you think she worked in any of those careers before becoming an ice skater?

Responding to the Story

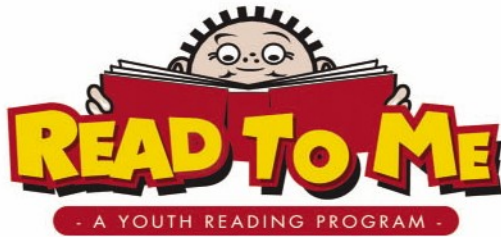
Language Arts

This must be someone else's dream!

Invite children to insert themselves into one of the dreams in the book. They can choose from being a teacher, dancer, an artist, veterinarian, robot inventor, deep-sea diver, aeronaut, archeologist, astronaut, Wild West cowboy or cowgirl, basketball star, millionaire, the President or an author. Encourage children to describe a day in their life in that career. Or, invite children to dress up as one of the characters and share a day in their life, taking questions from the audience at the end. Would the career they chose to act out or write about be something that they could really see themselves doing when they grow up?

Dreaming Outside the Box

What does it mean to "think outside the box"? Invite children to imagine careers that aren't even thought of yet. Can they dream "outside the box"? Can they imagine themselves doing something outlandish but fun and, being paid for it?



Create an ongoing list for children to add to as they have fun thinking of new and interesting careers. The following website shares some future job predictions and might be interesting to share with your children:

http://fastfuture.com/wp-content/uploads/2010/01/future_jobs_sheet.pdf

Dream Poems

Then, invite children to think of at least 3 different jobs they might like to do when they grow up. The sky's the limit! Encourage them to choose one and to write a dream poem in the same format used in the book. Younger children may need your help with this.

Guest Professional Interviews

Invite parents to come in and share about their professions and the dreams they had when they were young. Encourage children to ask them questions, such as:

- Did they dream about working in their present field of work or did their dreams or needs change?
- Statistics say that people will work in several different jobs over their lifetime. Invite the guests to talk about the many jobs they've had in life and how they arrived in their present position.
- Do they still dream about working in another field of work or are they content with their present position?
- What else do they dream about?

Art

Dreaming of a New World

Encourage children to imagine the world of their dreams. What in our world would stay the same? What would they like to see changed? Together, invite children to envision their ideal world and to create a classroom mural using various art techniques. At the site below, you will find directions for making murals in the classroom:

http://www.ehow.com/how_2130662_mural-classroom.html

Your children might like to look at murals shared at the following site in order to gather ideas for their own mural designs:

<http://www.usbg.gov/whats-happening/past-exhibits/Featured-Murals-Kids-Paint.cfm>

Celebrate the completion of the mural with your children and all those who helped bring the mural to life. Dream on!

♥**Lesson created by Val Hornburg, Portland, OR**