

Educator Page—January 2010

For teachers, media center staff, parents, children, and anyone else who'd like to gain even more value from Stories for Children Magazine

By Claudette Hegel

“Fish Talk” (article)

Questions for thought and discussion:

1. If you were a fish, what do you think you'd discuss with your friends?
2. Would you like to be able to change your color to help you communicate? Why or why not?
3. Would you like to work with fish to learn how they communicate? Why or why not?

Activity idea:

Draw or cut out several outlines of fish (or people) and make each of them a different color. Label the outlines with the emotion you think the color represents.

“Oliver Knows the Way” (story)

Questions for thought and discussion:

1. What kinds of facts besides directions would you like Oliver to tell you?
2. Name several people you consider “wise.” What characteristics do they have that make them wise?
3. Would you like others to think you're wise? Why or why not?

Activity idea:

Practice giving written or verbal directions to various locations in your school and your community.

“Ode to Mud” (poem)

Questions for thought and discussion:

1. Do you like playing with mud? Why or why not?
2. The poem includes many fun activities with mud. What other ways could you use mud?
3. Why do you think the mother was upset? What could the narrator of the poem do to make his or her mother happy again?

Activity idea:

The poem begins with the words “squishy” and “gloppy.” The sound of the word tells you the meaning. The fancy term for that is “onomatopoeia.” Make a list of other words that that sound like their meanings.