



***Balloon Blessing* Lesson Plan**

Grade: K-1

Subject: Shared Reading

Target: Characters

Objectives:

Students will:

- Listen to a fluent reading of the story.
- Choral read as a class.
- Answer comprehension questions.
- Define unfamiliar vocabulary.
- Use hand motions to visualize vocabulary words.
- Chant word spellings as a class.
- Write each vocabulary word.
- Mold a character from the book out of clay.
- Copy or create simple sentences.

Key Vocabulary:

-soar, scribe, sprint, giddy

Materials:

- Balloon Blessing* by Jill Jana Marie
- clay or play dough
- writing paper
- pencils

Day 1: Motivation and Modeled Fluency

-Ask students, "Have you ever let go of a balloon and watched it float away?"

- Allow several students to respond.
- Read entire book to class (Do not encourage participation yet).
- Ask several questions such as: "What different people are in the story? Can you remember any of their names? Do any of them remind you of people you know?"

Day 2: Define unfamiliar vocabulary

- Read story to class without participation.
- Read a second time, and encourage students to join in.
- Discuss each of the four vocabulary words (soar, scribe, sprint, giddy).

Suggested Activity:

Demonstrate motion for each new word while students mimic them. For example, for the word, "soar", hold out your arms like you're flying. Pretend you're writing with a pencil for "scribe". Move your hands back and forth like you're running for "sprint". Raise both arms in the air like you're excited and cheering or laughing for "giddy". After practicing the words and motions, call out words while students demonstrate the motion.

Day 3: Describing the characters

- Read book, and encourage students to join in.
- Discuss the different characters in the book.
- Ask students, "Which character writes a note from a hammock? Which person lives near the beach? Which character could be a grandparent? Which character saves lives? Who lives in Kentucky? Who lives in Delaware?"

Suggested Activity

- Students use clay or play dough to mold their favorite *Balloon Blessing* character.
- Allow several students to share with the class.

Day 4: Review and spelling practice

- Read book, and encourage students to join in.
- Review vocabulary and motions.
- Write each vocabulary word on the board while students copy.
- After writing each word, students stand and chant, stomp, or clap as they spell each word in unison. (Teacher may choose to have students spell words using chalk, white boards, shaving cream, macaroni noodles, or beans.)

Day 5: Writing Extension

- Read book, and encourage students to join in.
- Review vocabulary and motions.

- Students observe while teacher describes the characters in the story on the board. (For example, "Marjorie lives near the beach. Fannie lives in Kentucky. The doctor puts money in the balloon. A mommy finds money in a balloon.")
- Lower level students can copy, while higher level students can create their own sentences.