

Nasreddin Hodja -
Turkish and Middle Eastern Folklore Philosopher
Lesson Plan
by Joyce Daigle

Subject: Reading

Grade Level: 3

State Standards (Arizona):

Strand 1: Reading Process

Reading Process consists of the five critical components of reading, which are Phonemic Awareness, Phonics, Fluency, Vocabulary and Comprehension of connected text. These elements support each other and are woven together to build a solid foundation of linguistic understanding for the reader.

Concept 5: Fluency - Read fluently.

PO 1. Consistently read grade level text with at least 90 percent accuracy.

PO 2. Read aloud from familiar prose and poetry with fluency and appropriate rhythm, pacing, intonation, and vocal patterns.

Strand 2: Comprehending Literary Text

Comprehending Literary Text identifies the comprehension strategies that are specific in the study of a variety of literature.

Concept 1: Elements of Literature

Identify, analyze, and apply knowledge of the structures and elements of literature.

PO 1. Compare (and contrast) literary elements across stories, including plots, settings, and characters.

PO 2. Describe characters (e.g., traits, roles, similarities) within a literary selection.

Concept 2: Historical and Cultural Aspects of Literature

Recognize and apply knowledge of the historical and cultural aspects of American, British, and world literature.

PO 1. Compare events, characters and conflicts in literary selections from a variety of cultures to their experiences.

Background: This lesson can be used in conjunction with other folk stories from around the world. Students already should have a working knowledge of folk tales, fables, as well as tall tales. Many stories can and should be shared with students about Hodja (references to books and websites can be found at the end of this lesson). Two of the Hodja tales have in turn been written into a reader's theater script to help students work on their fluency.

Supplies:

- 1) Hodja PowerPoint slide show
- 2) Individual copies of the reader's theater script for each student - 2 scripts have been provided with this lesson, one provides the opportunity for all the students to say something (in unison) and the other provides just a few parts
- 3) Books on Hodja (a good list is provided at the end of this lesson plan)
- 4) Possible props (donkey made from a broom stick, a turban and a long robe are possible suggested items)

Anticipatory Set: We have been learning about folk tales and fables. Today we will learn about a figure in Turkish history that many stories have been written about. These folk tales are well known by Turkish people as well as by people all over the Middle East. We will learn about Hodja and then act out two short plays that have been adapted from stories about Hodja. Some of you will receive a part and this will give us a chance to work on our fluency in reading.

Lesson:

- 1) Introduce Nasreddin Hodja as a figure from Turkish History. He is a funny figure that is often portrayed as a trickster and is most clever.
- 2) Show the short PowerPoint slide show provided with this lesson. There are some notes on the slides to consider when presenting.
- 3) Now, students will be working on the reader's theater script (Hodja Gives a Speech)
 - a) select students based on their reading abilities
 - b) the role of the narrator has been broken into three different parts to allow for more students to participate
- 4) Have students highlight their lines.

5) Encourage students to study their parts and to read each line with proper intonation and character!

Note: There is a second script with this lesson "Hodja Borrows a Pot." Use this for another day.

Extension: Students can also be encouraged to write their own scripts using the books and cards noted in the references section of this lesson. I am currently working on this lesson plan and hope to send to the CMES office at the University of Arizona very soon.

Sources

Clark, Raymond. The Tales of Nasreddin Hodja: Story Cards - This is a set of 40 story cards that can be used in pair work (or for kids to write their own scripts) - these cards are available to sign out through the Center for Middle Eastern Studies at the University of Arizona <http://www.cmes.arizona.edu/outreach/lendinglibrary.php>

202 Jokes of Nasreddin Hodja. Author Unknown. Orient Publishing Service LTD. www.orientpublic.net

The Tales of Nasrettin Hoca. Translation by Talat Halman. Silkroad Publications. ISBN 978-975-7499-46-6

Yörenç, Kemal. The Best Anecdotes of Nasreddin Hoca. Translation by Fulya Urgancıoğlu. Akşit Kültür Turizm Sanat Ajans LTD. ISBN 975-7039-17-9

http://www.focusmm.com/kids/story_1.htm

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nasreddin>

<http://www.business-with-turkey.com/hoca/hoca-who.htm>

<http://www.bigloveturkey.com/culture/whois-nasreddin-hodja-nasrettin-hoca.asp>

<http://www.allaboutturkey.com/nasreddin.htm>