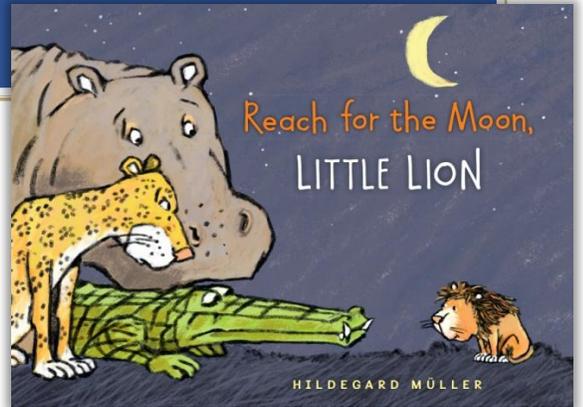


LESSON PLAN

Reach For the Moon, Little Lion

Written and illustrated by Hildegard Müller

In this simple tale, readers will journey with Lion as he faces bullying and finds the strength to “reach for the moon.”



9780823437771 • Ages 3–6 • E-book available

Objectives: Students will be able to identify the figurative versus literal meanings of phrases, the author’s purpose, problem and solution, and story elements.

Guided Reading Level: K

Grade Level: 2

Interest Level: Pre-K–3

Instructional Standards

Reading Literature: RL.K-2.1,2,3,4,5,7

Reading Foundation Skills: RF.K-2.4,4a

Writing: W.K-2.2,3,5,6,7,8

Speaking and Listening: SL.K-2.1,2,3,4,6

Language: L.K-2.3,4,5,6

BEFORE READING

1. Look at the cover illustration and title and discuss Lion’s size, body language, and facial expression.
2. Why do you think his head is lowered?
3. How are the other animals looking at Lion?
4. How can we identify the main character of the story?
5. Identify the author and illustrator. Discuss the role of each.
6. How does observing the cover illustration and title help you understand what you are going to be reading about?
7. Ask students to identify the meaning of the phrase “reach for the moon.”
8. Who would you tell to “reach for the moon” and why would you say it?
9. Discuss figurative vs. literal meanings. Write “idiom” on the board.
10. Idioms are phrases that mean something different than what the words say. Brainstorm examples of idioms.
11. Create an idiom chart.
12. Ask students to identify the figurative meaning of the following:
 - It’s “raining cats and dogs.”
 - I am feeling “under the weather.”
 - My friend is “down to earth.”
 - “Time flies when you are having fun.”
 - “You’re pulling my leg.”



Go on a picture walk through the book.

1. Discuss how the words and pictures are positioned on the pages and how the author uses larger font and color on some of the words.
2. What type of book is this, fiction or nonfiction? Explain.
3. Discuss the different types of fiction. (realistic fiction, fantasy, tales, adventure)
4. Discuss the facial expressions of the characters in the illustrations.
5. Predict what the story is going to be about. Write down your predictions.

DURING READING

1. Read the book to and with the class.

Read to Find Out

1. What are the story elements: setting, plot, and character development?
2. Who is the main character and how do you know this?
3. What kind of character is Lion?
4. What type of fiction is *Reach for the Moon, Little Lion*? (tale; it begins . . . Once upon a time)
5. How does the author use repeated words and phrases to enhance meaning?
6. What is the problem or conflict in the story?
7. Why are the other animals making fun of Lion?
8. Check your predictions as you read.
9. How does the author create the tone in the story? Discuss the words and illustrations as you read.
10. What is Raven's role in the story?
11. What advice does Raven give to Lion that is wise?
12. How does the story change from the beginning to the end?
13. What lesson was Hildegard Müller trying to teach?

AFTER READING

1. Check your predictions. Write if you were correct in what you thought the book was going to be about. Share with the class.
2. Why is this book a fictional tale?
3. What can this tale teach you about your own life?
4. Have you ever been bullied or bullied someone else? How did it make you feel?
5. As you read the book, what was the tone of the story? What feelings were evoked by the story? Go back to the book and find examples of how the words, phrases, and illustration moved you to feel a particular way.
6. What did Raven mean when he said, "If you wish to touch the moon, you must reach for it"?
7. Why do you think the animals stopped teasing Lion after they saw him touch the moon?
8. Did Lion actually touch the moon?



Extension Activity

1. Write “optical illusion” on the board. It is something that deceives the eye by appearing to be other than it is, or an experience of seeming to see something that does not exist or that is other than it appears.
2. How did Lion create this optical illusion?
3. Research other optical illusions. How and why do they happen?
4. Create a presentation using visual aids.

Make Money Appear!

1. Conduct the experiment below. What do you think will happen? Why?

Materials you will need:

- an opaque cup or bowl
- a piece of transparent cellophane tape
- a coin
- a glass of water

Directions:

1. Tape the coin securely to the bottom of the inside of the cup or bowl.
2. Move your head slowly away (back) from the cup until the coin is just beyond your view.
3. Hold your head in this position as you carefully pour the water into the cup.
4. The coin will reappear before your eyes.

The science behind it: optics is the study of light and how it changes. An optical illusion is the brain playing tricks on you based on this perception of light.

1. If light meets a boundary between two materials head on, what happens?
2. When it strikes the boundary between transparent materials at an angle, which way does it go?
3. How do these things relate to making money appear and disappear?

Guide written by Marla Conn, reading/literacy specialist and educational consultant

