

Deconstructing the Illustrations of The Story About Ping

Lesson Plan

Submitted by: Simala Kureishy

Date: May 5th 2009

Grade level(s): Kindergarten – Grade 2

Subject(s):

- Arts/Visual Arts

Description: This lesson plan will help students understand the illustrations in 'The Story About Ping' by Marjorie Flack on the basis of the following –

- Medium
- Drawing Water
- Defining the different types of lines and that lines create shapes, forms, rhythm and texture
- Viewpoint
- Unity of Theme Through Subject
- Composition

Goal: The students will understand the above concepts and try their hands at illustrating.

Objective:

The student will be able to draw repetition to create rhythm, to show motion. The student will list the different types of lines.

Background Information: This activity is used to help students see how lines are used to form different shapes and objects. The activity follows a reading of 'The Story about Ping' by Marjorie Flack.

Concepts: Students will be able to:

1. Experiment with different types of lines.

Materials

1. crayons
2. colored pencils
3. White construction paper
4. Name tags

Procedure:

1. Medium:

- Talk about the medium used by illustrator Kurt Wiese in illustrating Ping.
- Most of the illustrations look like crayon or colored pencil.
- Show how Wiese combines colors to make new tones in the sky, water and the background. At first appearance it may look a shade of gray but close inspection reveals different colors.

2. Drawing Water:

- Wiese has drawn water throughout the story. Observe the use of broken reflections to give the impression of water. Cover the reflections with a paper and see how the impression of water is lost.
- Let the students draw the sun and its reflection to give the impression of water.

3. Defining the different types of lines and that lines create shapes, forms, rhythm and texture

- **Look at the illustrations for puddles. Ripples that suggest action. Trailing wavy lines that suggest motion. This pattern is repeated behind boats, ducks to create the illusion of movement.**
- **Let the students try to implement these strategies in their drawing.**

4. Viewpoint:

- The cover illustration shows the traditional point of view. Ping's profile, outline of wing, tail and bill help identify Ping as a duck.
- Discuss head-on point of view on the title page.
- Observe and discuss the different points of view in the illustrations such as bottom up, head beneath wing, swimming away. Draw an egg or any other simple object from different perspectives. Talk about how our viewpoint changes our perspective of the world around us.

5. Unity of Theme Through Subject:

- The illustrator has used the Yangtze river as the recurring theme in the illustrations of his story. This creates a sense of unity and ties the book together. All the illustrations save three depict the river. The repetition gives a sense of the importance of the river in the lives of the people along its banks.

6. Composition: Talk about the importance of composition in a drawing.

- Wiese has created a diagonal with the foliage on pages eight and nine. On page nine Ping and the sun form a diagonal and the foliage makes another opposing diagonal. This is a balanced composition.
- Both content and composition are important aspects of a picture.

Assessment:

1. Ask the students to talk about their drawings in terms of the aspects explained.