



The PAC in YOUR Living Room

Peter Rabbit Tales – Pre-viewing Character & Writing Games

Animals as Characters

Have the students brainstorm the characteristics of certain animals and ask questions about those animals:

- How do they travel?
- What do they eat?
- How do they communicate?
- Where do they live?
- Who are their friends and enemies?
- Where can they be found?
- What sounds do they make?

Examples:

- Snake: slithery, limbless, elongated body, swallow things whole, hisses & rattles, has fangs and deadly poison in venom-glands, round around spirally
- Lion: large, furry, has a tail, ferocious, roars, moves fast and silently, springs into the air, presents itself as lord of the jungle
- Jackal: cowardly, scavenger, looks like a dog, barks and yaps, is devious and sneaky.

Ask the students to choose at least one of the characteristics to focus on as he or she watches the video.

The above questions can also be used to ask the students to write a story about a particular animal in the Peter Rabbit stories at the end of the video.

<p>Animal Similes</p> <p>Word choice</p> <p>Conventions</p> <p>Revising</p>	<p>Talk about animals representing different qualities. Generate a list on a computer or piece of paper. For example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>blind as a bat.</i> • <i>lazy as a dog.</i> • <i>busy as a bee.</i> <p>Or start the similes and have the students fill in the blank, such as:</p> <p><i>Fast as a _____ (cheetah, rabbit)</i></p> <p><i>Hungry as a _____ (bear, elephant, crocodile)</i></p> <p>The students choose three of the similes and include them in a story.</p>
--	---

<p>Four Corners</p> <p>Pre-Write</p> <p>Fluency</p> <p>Creative Writing</p>	<p>Ask the students to draw a simple illustration of an animal in the middle of the page. After a few minutes, even if they are not finished with their drawing, ask them to write:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. the name of the animal in the upper left hand corner. 2. what is special about the animal in the upper right hand corner. 3. where the animal lives in the lower left hand corner. 4. the name of the animal's worst enemy in the lower right hand corner. <p>Have the students write a story about this animal and how it defeats or becomes a friend with its worst enemy.</p> <p>Variation: Ask the students to draw a picture of an animal. Then they are to write:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Where the animal lives in the upper left hand corner. 2. One word to describe the animal (ferocious, gentle, vegetarian, etc.) in the upper right hand corner. 3. The animal's worst enemy in the lower left hand corner. 4. What does the animal do best in the lower right hand corner. <p>On the basis of their illustration and what they wrote about the animal, have the students create a tale about the animal wandering into the city and meeting their worst enemy.</p>
--	---