Storytelling featuring Leo Lionni

At the Children’s School, our year is separated into theme-related units. During each theme, the teachers change the classroom materials. In December, we planned various activities that made the Storytelling theme meaningful to each Green Room friend.

“I believe that a good children’s book should appeal to all people who have not completely lost their original joy and wonder in life. The fact is that I don’t make books for children at all. I make them for that part of us, of myself and of my friends, which has never changed, which is still a child” - Leo Lionni

During our Storytelling theme, we explored the sequence of story, the parts of a story and various ways to tell stories. We chose several of Leo Lionni’s books to help us better understand the art of storytelling. We swam with Swimmy, used our imaginations with Fish is Fish, measured with Inch by Inch, and practiced poetry, rhyming and puppetry with Frederick. Along with Leo Lionni’s stories, we revisited classic stories including Goldilocks and The Three Bears, Abiyoyo, The Three Billy Goats Gruff, and The Three Little Pigs. The children’s daily personal, imaginative and wonderfully descriptive stories added to our excitement and learning!
Swimmy and Fish is Fish

We “dove” into our unit by introducing Leo Lionni as the author and illustrator of Swimmy and Fish is Fish. We discussed the job of an author and illustrator. During the week, we focused on the sequence of a story by identifying the beginning, middle and end. Along with sequencing skills, we practiced letter formation when making our locker tags, cooperation when creating our HUGE classroom eel, and patterning and graphing skills with colored goldfish crackers.

Parker stamps a fish and writes the word “fish” on his new locker tag.

Eugene practices sequencing a story using story cards.

Ben H. creates an imaginative animal inspired by the story Fish is Fish.

Ksenia sorts and graphs colored goldfish crackers.

Isaac uses various painting tools to create a water scene similar to the illustrations in Swimmy.

Izhak builds using foam blocks and shaving cream.

Cash, Andrew and Kaya play Candyland.

Morgan, Izhak, Betsy and Jovie work together to paint the eel from the story Swimmy.

Owen and Evan pretend with the castles, kings, queens and horses.
Inch by Inch

Leo Lionni introduced us to measurement through the various animals the inchworm in the story encountered. This story helped us discover the parts of a story. We identified characters, setting, scenery, conflict and resolution. The friends worked together to build a stage and paint the scenery in preparation to perform the story. Also, during the week we practiced measuring using standard (ruler) and non-standard (inch worms, unifix cubes) measuring tools, identifying and naming alphabet letters, recalling the story as we enacted it on our stage, and discovering musical notes and various instruments.

Evan, Deborah and Malena build the Green Room stage.

Tomer measures his worm using a ruler.

Kendal sings a song on the Green Room stage.

Isaac looks at the musical notes while playing the xylophone.

Izhak, Cash, Kaya and Morgan perform Inch by Inch on the Green Room stage.

Annie, Malena, Max, Evelyn, Deborah, Evan and Atticus perform Inch by Inch on the Green Room stage.

Tomer and Ben R. measure Mrs. Wendolowski using unifix cubes!

Izhak, Cash, Kaya and Morgan perform Inch by Inch on the Green Room stage.

Grace and Max practice measuring using various sizes of worms.

Marina plays the role of the inch worm and measures the hummingbird (Max).
Frederick

Reading Frederick allowed us opportunities to learn about poetry and practice rhyming. We also explored various ways to tell stories including acting on a stage, using a shadow screen, and puppetry. On the Green Room stage, we performed The Three Billy Goats Gruff and The Three Little Pigs. We used a shadow screen and puppets to tell the story of Abiyoyo. The highlight of the week was creating mice in the Make Shop. With the help of Mrs Perovich, one of our Kindergarten teachers, the friends picked fabric to create their mouse body and ears. Along side of Mrs Perovich (and her sewing machine), the friends stitched the mouse together, stuffed it with old pillow stuffing, and glued on eyes, a nose and a tail. The friends incorporated their mouse into The Three Billy Goats Gruff and The Three Little Pigs performances throughout the week.

Andrew works the pedal as Mrs. Perovich guides the sewing machine to stitch the body of Andrew’s mouse.

Ksenia proudly shows her finished mouse.

Evelyn, Tiger, Ben H. and Grace practice rhyming when they play the “What Rhymes?” game.

Deborah adds her mouse to the puppet theater to perform a puppet show.

Mrs. Perovich teaches Grace and Malena how to use a sewing machine.

Evan (a billy goat), Tomer (the troll), Atticus and Eugene perform The Three Billy Goats Gruff on the Green Room stage.

Tomer, Ksenia and Sean use stick puppets and the shadow screen to retell the story, Abiyoyo.

Parker uses stone blocks to build the wall from the story, Frederick.

Atticus (the wolf), Ava and Grace (the pigs) perform the story of The Three Little Pigs.
**The Make Shop**

During the month, we explored and experimented with ramps in the Make Shop. Using rubber ramps, wooden ramps, various balls and plastic tubing, the friends collaborated and problem solved while constructing creative and clever ramps.

For a few days, The Make Shop was transformed into our work space to create a mouse. This project allowed us to incorporate our Textile whole school theme into our Storytelling theme. We used various textiles including felt, ribbon, cotton batting, and thread while working on this project. Our thanks to Mrs Perovich for her sewing skills and instruction!

Max and Betsy work together to create ramps.

Ben R. incorporates a chair to add height to his ramp.

Ava and Eugene use rubber and wooden ramps while experimenting with different heights.

Deborah and Grace use the entire width of the room for their ramp creation.

Annie uses wooden balls to test her ramp.

Sean adds tunnels to his ramp.

Mrs Perovich teaches Ava, Javi, Ksenia and Annie how to use a sewing machine.
BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

During the month of December, we celebrated many birthdays in the Green Room. Deborah, Grace, Javi, Leeza, Sean, Izhak and Jovie are 4 years old! Their families visited to share a story, and we all enjoyed a special birthday snack.

Thanks to Mrs. Hraber for our fun filled, theme related music activities every other week.

Good Bye and Good Luck Miss Vizzini

The friends said good bye to Miss Vizzini, our student teacher from The University of Pittsburgh. We wish her all the best.