

The Kingdom of How to be Good Make a Diorama

Materials:

- File folder per student
- Pencils and crayons, scissors and glue
- *Stories to Light Our Way* book and CD
- Teacher-made 2-sided diorama (see below)
- About six teacher made 8 1/2 inch diameter circles

Activity Procedures:

1. Read the story *"The Kingdom of How to be Good – A story of changing yourself and the world"* and use the CD.
2. Use a chart or some kind of board, (white, black or smart) to list students' ideas on what it means to be good.
3. Go over the parts of the story, discussing the beginning, middle and end of story. Point out the problems that the king faced and how he chose to solve them. Bring out the idea that this is a fantasy story, but there are important realistic aspects.
4. Tell students they will be making 2 sided dioramas that show the kingdom in the beginning for one side and a second side that shows the "special place" and the kingdom in the end of the story. Ask what each was like in the story and what happened to change the kingdom. Write down students' recollections and interpretations as they talk about each part. Have students discuss in pairs what they recall about each part of the story. They should then share with the group. Teacher writes all of this down on board or chart.
5. Explain that we will now make "two-sided dioramas" that show scenes from the Kingdom. The first side will be the kingdom, in the beginning. The second side will show the special place and the kingdom in the end, after the children help them learn to be good.
6. Using each half of the file folder, trace an 8 1/2 inch diameter circle, (great math tie-in) using teacher made models to trace around. After tracing these on file folder paper, cut them out. Next fold them in half. Write sub-titles "The Kingdom-in the beginning" on one side. Write "The special place and kingdom in the end" on the other side. The scraps from cutting out the circles should be used to make people and parts of nature mentioned and depicted in the story. Students should draw, cut out and color these parts of the story and glue them on the base of the diorama sides to stand them up or draw and color them on the back wall.
7. After students have their sides labeled and set up, they should color the scenes and make cut outs to glue on each side, depicting the various key aspects of the story.
8. When dioramas are done, students should come back together and celebrate the interpretations/examples from the story. Talk about what students remembered from the story.
9. Talk about how we have some of the elements from both parts of the story in our classroom, in our lives. Talk about how we can use "the special place" to change things from not good to good. Teacher should write some of these ideas down and talk about how we can work on these every day. Pose question of how we can change our own behavior to make it better and thus change the classroom and our lives.

Kingdom of How to be Good Picture Book

Materials

- Story on pg. 1 of *Stories to Light Our Way* book for each student
- Printer paper folded and stapled into a book
- Crayons
- Pencils
- Chart Paper
- Marker

Activity Procedures:

1. Pass out a copy of *"The Kingdom of How to be Good – A story of changing yourself and the world"* to each student.
2. Read the story out loud to the class.
3. Have the students reread the story independently and highlight or underline some of the lessons the children had to learn.
4. Ask students to talk to a partner or their table mates to come up with ways or lessons they can practice, making their classroom and school better.
5. Have the students volunteer answers while you record them on chart paper.
6. Pass out the blank booklets to each student.
7. Tell them that they are going to create a book of lessons to share with the kindergarten students to help them be good.
8. Explain that they will choose 6 of the ideas from the anchor chart or their own head to put into a book.
9. They will make a cover and a title on the front.
10. One lesson will be written on each page, and a picture will be drawn to show that lesson.
11. Students should be reminded to write neatly and to draw and color neatly.
12. When students are done, set up a time with a Kindergarten class to have students read their books to them.
13. Leave the books with the Kindergarteners so that they can continue to read them throughout the year.