

# *In the Classroom: Session One • Ages 5-7*

## *Monday*

### **Stories & Legends**

**Books Read:** *Lore Of the Wild-North American Superstitions, Babe the Blue Ox, Raven Steals the Light, Rain of Fish-Father Subirana, Compere Chien, My Name is Gabriela, I Am a Very Calm Capybara, Snippets, Latinitas- Evelyn Miralles & Teresa Carreno, Christmas Spider*

**Countries Studied:** USA, Canada, Honduras, St Lucia, Chile, Uruguay, Venezuela, Argentina

**Additional Topics Covered:** World Kindness Day/Kindness around the world, Christmas around the world

**Vocabulary Words Learned:** frigid, covet, torrential, ruse, cherish, altruism, composition

**Projects Completed:** travel journals, Inukshuk art, rain of fish mobile, Compere Chien horns, Los Pollitos, La Mano (The Hand) sculpture, waiter's race/bow ties, travel posters, kindness quilt

**Educator Note:** I love the way this group fully embraces the imaginative and creative play aspect of the class. Whether we are horned animals, reciting Spanish rhymes, sculptors, or waiters racing to be the best, they give it their all!

### **Astronomy**

**Topics Discussed:** What is an astronaut, spacecraft, nutrition in space, what is life, the Sun, Mercury, Venus, Earth, the Moon, Mars

**Select Projects Completed:** Large Solar System poster, 3D universe simulator, custom rocket creation simulator, clay planets, LEGO rockets

**Educator Note:** The 3D universe simulation was definitely everyone's favorite part of this session. Using new procedural generation technology, we are able to do the next best thing to actual space travel! We were able to "fly" to other planets and galaxies to see them up close. Students absolutely loved it when using the search tool, I could look up astronomical findings with names that were similar to theirs.

### **Writer's Workshop**

**Books Read:** *Idea Jar, Rosie's Walk, In November, The Hat, The Mitten, In Winter* and other various mentor texts

**Topics Covered:** sequencings, parts of a sentence, letter formation, letter sounds, syllables, phonemic awareness, and digraphs

**Spelling Chunks Covered:** at, it, et, end, op, ug

**Projects and Activities Completed:** fine motor skill practice, write the room, roll and write, kinesthetic writing activities, writing portfolio

**Educator Note:** this group of little learners has come so far this session with their letter formation and writing skills. Their favorite part of the class is when they get to move and write the room!

## Tuesday

### Early Readers

**Book(s) Read:** *Angelina Ballerina series, Goodbye Fall, Hello Winter, When Pumpkins Fly, Pinkalicious, snowflake poems, Bad Apple: A Tale of Friendship*

**Concepts Covered:** Sight words, reading comprehension, punctuation and capitalization, spelling, word sounds, story sequencing, poetry

**Projects Completed:** All About Me, hibernating bears, snowflake poems, sight word search, sight word bingo, weekly writing responses

**Educator Note:** The students have done an excellent job reading and responding to stories both verbally and in writing. They've completed several projects to make text-to-self connections to books we've read and listened to in class. I was especially proud of their snowflake poems which they created after learning about imagery. As we move forward, I'll be encouraging the students to sound out words independently and practice capitalizing and adding periods to their sentences.

### Flower Fairies

**Books Read:** *Lily in Full Bloom, The Adventures of Lily Huckleberry: Scandinavia, The Adventures of Lily Huckleberry: Japan, Flower Fairies of the Alphabet*

**Countries Studied:** Denmark, Sweden, Norway, Japan

**Literature Projects Completed:** Lily Huckleberry portfolio book, flower fairies of the alphabet, fairy house, wooden fairies, Dala horse, Viking ship, Viking shield, wooden Viking, koinobori windsocks, ninja, kimono design, bento plates, daruma doll drawings

**Botany Topics Covered:** what is botany, botanists, classification, vascular and nonvascular plants, seeds, parts of a seed, parts of a flower, flower dissection, carnivorous plants, germination, pollination, seed dispersal, fruits, vegetables

**Botany Projects Completed:** seed flowers, Venus fly traps, portfolio book diagrams and drawings

**Educator Note:** We have had such fun traveling around the world with Lily Huckleberry and learning some pretty amazing botany skills as well! Students loved our flower dissection and creating our mini-books has been a beautiful keepsake from our "travels" together!

## Wednesday

### Literature for Littles

**Books Read:** *Owl at Home, For the Love of Autumn, Listening With My Heart, Thimblewood Stories, Grumpycorn, The Snowy Nap*

**Dance it Out:** *Creative Movement Book Series: Princess Naomi Helps a Unicorn, Brielle's Birthday Ball, Joey Finds His Jump, Eka and the Elephants, Mira and the Magic Mirror, The Cat with the Crooked Tail, Sadoni Squirrel, Danny, Denny, and the Dancing Dragon*

**Concepts Covered:** analyzing the literature, reader response, book discussion/questions/Socratic dialogue with Ms. Adrienne

**Writing Activities:** vocabulary discussion, guided close reading, story elements, story sequencing, positional words booklet, weekly writing prompt

**Rabbit Trail:** learned all about owls!

**Projects Completed:** owls, owl headbands, origami cats, "What Makes Your Heart Happy?" paint dot art, Nigel the Chipmunk booklet, build a unicorn, animal drawings

**Educator Note:** We began the year starting class with story time followed by book discussion and craft time. We shifted to the *Dance it Out* book series so as I read the story, students act out the story elements and get their wiggles out. I have also added in time to stretch and move during our discussion questions and the children seem to really be enjoying this new format. We then work together through a writing prompt and they are highly focused to then watch a how to draw tutorial to add drawings to their story page. This format is working really well and all of the students have been making a gorgeous portfolio of their writing projects that they are all very proud of!

## History

**Topics Studied:** maps, ancient architecture, knights, royalty, animal domestication, voyages of exploration, ancient laws, famous world leaders, inventions

**Select Projects:** writing in Ancient Greek, map making, various history-related drawings, tinfoil knights, writing a chivalrous code of ethics, Bayeux Tapestry-inspired giant comic strip

**Educator Note:** Famous explorers have been a popular topic this year, especially the strange and fantastic sights that they allegedly saw on the way. Anything involving a mermaid is always a hit, even if it was really a manatee!

After a few weeks of learning how the students work together in class, I changed the format to focus on one important word each week and explain it in detail from a historical perspective. I felt that it was more important to explain concepts in great detail to set them up for future learning success in social studies. Some word examples are: quest, king, knight, and chivalry. The students have responded well to the new format and seem to really enjoy this class.

## Zoology

**Books Read:** *The Sassafras Science Adventures: Zoology*

**Habitats and Animals Studied:**

Grasslands: Kenya, Africa

- lion, cheetah, elephant, giraffe

Desert: Egypt

- camel, cobra, lizard, fox

Farm: Quebec, Canada

- cow, bee, chicken, house spider

Amazon Rainforest: Peru

- sloth, toucan, poison dart frog, blue morpho butterfly

Eucalyptus Forest: Australia

- koala, rabbit

Bamboo Forest: Sichuan, China

- panda, golden eagle, powerful owl, sambar deer

**Vocabulary Words Covered:** grasslands, food chain, mammal, carnivore, herbivore, omnivore, reptile, desert, domesticated animal, arthropod, insect, amphibian, marsupial, bird, forest.

**Projects Completed:** I spy (observation skills), SCIDat journals, food charts, fox craft, cow clay sculpture, toucan tissue paper project, butterfly watercolor, paper plate panda, owls

**Science Demonstrations:** reptile egg simulation and giraffe saliva consistency experiment

**Rabbit Hole:** Endangered species and how we can help

**Educator Note:** The children have been enjoying the adventures of Tracey and Blaine as they travel the world. Everyone loves learning about all of the animals encountered on those adventures and is doing such great work on their projects.