

The Folklorists

Curriculum Supplement

Episode 3: El Chupacabra

Lower Grades

BASIC INFO

LOCATION: MCCALLEN, TEXAS, USA

- MCCALLEN IS ON THE BORDER BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND MEXICO.

• LEGEND: EL CHUPACABRA

- THE CHUPACABRA HAS BEEN SEEN ALL OVER THE UNITED STATES, MEXICO, AND SEVERAL OTHER COUNTRIES SUCH AS BRAZIL, CHILE,

COLOMBIA, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, AND EL SALVADOR

- THE NAME "CHUPACABRA" IS A PORTMANTEAU, MEANING IT IS A MASHUP OF TWO SPANISH WORDS. "CHUPAR" (TO SUCK) AND "CABRA" (GOAT). BECAUSE THE CHUPACABRA SUCKS THE BLOOD OUT OF ANIMALS LIKE A VAMPIRE!

ART PROMPT

- THE CHUPACABRA HAS BEEN DESCRIBED AS LOOKING LIKE PART REPTILE AND PART DOG. DRAW YOUR OWN ANIMAL MASHUP!

DRAMA GAME: TRIO STORIES

- CHOOSE THREE VOLUNTEERS TO "TAKE THE STAGE" (STAND IN FRONT OF THE CLASS).
- THE FIRST VOLUNTEER BEGINS THE STORY BY FINISHING THE SENTENCE "ONCE UPON A TIME..." THE NEXT VOLUNTEER BEGINS THEIR SENTENCE "UNTIL ONE DAY..." AND THE FINAL VOLUNTEER BEGINS THEIR SENTENCE "AND EVERY DAY AFTER THAT..." END THE STORY WITH THE VOLUNTEERS CREATING A TABLEAU (FROZEN PICTURE) OF THEIR SENTENCE.
- THESE STUDENTS HAVE NOW SUCCESSFULLY TOLD A STORY TOGETHER! REPEAT UNTIL TIME IS UP OR THERE ARE NO MORE VOLUNTEERS.
- ENCOURAGE STORIES TO BE ABOUT COMPASSION FOR ANIMALS!

GROUP ACTIVITY

- BEGIN BY HAVING LEARNERS MAKE THEMSELVES LITTLE AND ROUND LIKE ROCKS. THIS IS THE "MAGIC ROCKS" POSITION. WHENEVER YOU SAY "MAGIC ROCKS" THEY MUST FIND THEMSELVES IN THESE POSES.
- LEADER THEN SAYS "MAGIC ROCKS TURN INTO..." AND ADDS AN ANIMAL, A PROFESSION, A CHARACTERISTIC, AN EMOTION, OR WHATEVER ELSE! STUDENTS THEN FIND THEMSELVES IN A FROZEN POSE INTERPRETING THE PROMPT.
- AFTER A COUPLE OF PRACTICE ROUNDS TRY HAVING ROCKS TURN INTO ANIMALS MASHUPS; A BIRD WITH THE LEGS OF A BEAR! OR A FISH WITH THE HANDS OF A CHIMPANZEE! HAVE FUN AND TRY TO ENCOURAGE LEARNERS TO CONTRIBUTE THEIR OWN MASHUPS!

REFLECTION

- WHAT DO YOU DO IF YOU HAVE A NIGHTMARE?
- DOES YOUR FAMILY HAVE ANY BELIEFS ABOUT WHAT DREAMS MEAN?

The Folklorists

Curriculum Supplement

Episode 3: El Chupacabra

Upper Grades



BASIC INFO

LOCATION: MCCALLEN, TEXAS, USA

- MCCALLEN IS ON THE BORDER BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND MEXICO.
- LEGEND: EL CHUPACABRA
 - THE CHUPACABRA HAS BEEN SEEN ALL OVER THE UNITED STATES, MEXICO, AND SEVERAL OTHER COUNTRIES SUCH AS BRAZIL, CHILE,

COLOMBIA, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, AND EL SALVADOR

- THE NAME "CHUPACABRA" IS A PORTMANTEAU, MEANING IT IS A MASHUP OF TWO SPANISH WORDS. "CHUPAR" (TO SUCK) AND "CABRA" (GOAT). BECAUSE THE CHUPACABRA SUCKS THE BLOOD OUT OF ANIMALS LIKE A VAMPIRE!

WRITING PROMPT

- WRITE ABOUT AN ANIMAL YOU CARE ABOUT. HAVE YOU EVER HAD TO DEFEND THEM OR ADVOCATE FOR THEM OR THEIR HEALTH?
- WHAT DO YOU LOVE ABOUT ANIMALS? IF YOU CONSIDER YOURSELF TO BE SOMEONE WHO DOES NOT LOVE ANIMALS, WHY?

DRAMA GAME: STORYBALL WITH GENRE

STUDENTS STAND IN A CIRCLE.

USING A LIGHT, SOFT BALL OR OBJECT YOU FEEL COMFORTABLE THROWING IN THE CLASSROOM (OR GO OUTSIDE), LEARNERS CYCLE THROUGH A STORY BY USING THE FOLLOWING SENTENCE STARTERS:

- ONCE UPON A TIME...
- AND EVERY DAY...
- UNTIL ONE DAY...
- AND BECAUSE OF THAT...
- AND EVERY DAY AFTER THAT...
- AND THE MORAL OF THE STORY IS...

ENCOURAGE LEARNERS TO CREATE STORIES ABOUT ANIMALS!

EVENTUALLY INTRODUCE THE CONCEPT OF GENRE AND SEE HOW STORIES CHANGE. MAYBE TRY TELLING THE SAME STORY TWICE WITH TWO DIFFERENT GENRES! HERE ARE SOME EXAMPLE GENRES:

• COMEDY • DRAMA • SPOOKY • ACTION/ADVENTURE • MYSTERY • CARTOON •

ART PROMPT

CREATE A COMIC (4-PANEL OR OTHERWISE) DEPICTING HOW YOU (OR YOUR PET OR ANOTHER ANIMAL) WOULD RESPOND IF YOU OR THEY MET A VISITOR FROM ANOTHER PLANET AND/OR THE VISITOR'S PETS

GROUP DISCUSSION

- SINCE HUMANS HAVE EVOLVED FROM HUNTER/GATHERERS WE TECHNICALLY DO NOT REQUIRE ANIMAL MEAT OR PRODUCTS TO SURVIVE ANYMORE. WHY DO YOU THINK WE STILL CONSUME ANIMALS? DO YOU THINK IT IS ONLY BECAUSE OF FLAVOR OR ARE THERE OTHER FACTORS AT PLAY?
- 