

Lucky Dog Humane Education Lesson 4 – Cat Poems

Aligns to the following Common Core Standards for K-5

(ELA = English Language Arts)

! **ELA Re Literature** - Standards 4, 5 & 6

! **ELA Speaking and Listening** - Standards 1, 2 & 4

Aligns to Social Emotional Learning Outcomes

! **Self Awareness:** Identifying emotions, thoughts and values

! **Self Management:** Self-discipline - Impulse control

! **Social Awareness:** Perspective-talking - Empathy - Respect for others - Diversity

! **Relationship Skills:** Communication - Relationship building

! **Responsible Decision-making:** Identifying problems - Analyzing situations - Solving Problems - Ethical responsibility - Reflecting

OBJECTIVE: To inspire children to feel compassion and empathy by asking them to look into the heart and mind of a stray cat and write a poem.

PREPARATION: Teacher or Presenter will lead a prepared PowerPoint discussion that includes reading the Book *Shoo* by Hana Goldberg. This will give students basic knowledge about a stray cat's feelings and needs

METHOD:

- Lucky Dog H.E. presenters (or classroom teacher) will use a combined PowerPoint and Storybook presentation, accompanied by posters, puppets, and props – The children will be introduced things that make a stray cat feel safe and happy vs. things that make them feel scared and sad.

- Presenters will leave expansion activities for the classroom. These activities will help teachers promote compassion for animals and compassion in the classroom. They will also inspire children to understand that they, too, can participate in positive change for shelter animals, stray animals, and pet overpopulation.

IMPLEMENTATION:

After participating in the cat lesson and story, the classroom teacher will lead a discussion on ways to help stray cats feel safe, happy and loved. The teacher will ask open-ended questions about how a cat feels as a stray or in the shelter and what a stray cat wishes for and dreams of. The children will then be given the task of writing a poem about a stray cat.

Materials:

Paper, pens, pictures of stray cats, and sample Haiku and Cinquain poems

Cinquain Poetry

1 word – Animal's name

2 words – describing the animal

3 words – action words that end in “ing”

4 words – make a short phrase about the animal

1 word - a different name or word for the animal

Ex:

Simba

Shy, scared

Hiding, hunting, scavenging

Hoping for a better life

Feral

Haiku Poetry:

Line 1 (5 syllables) – Describe the animal

Line 2 (7 syllables) – What does the animal do?

Line 3 (5 syllables) – How does the animal make you feel?

Ex:

Lonely little cat

Peeking out to watch me play

I wish she were mine

Concepts: Teaching basic poetry writing and reading. Teaching empathy and compassion. Teaching the importance of keeping your pets for life and keeping pets safe and in your home. Promoting the concept of kindness and compassion for animals need.

CONCLUSION: Have children take turns reading their poems aloud. Save Poems to display at “Kindnessfest” at the conclusion of the Lucky Dog Humane Education Program

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