

Music Transition: "Celebration" by Kool and the Gang.

The children will transition to the next learning area during the song.

7. THE GRIOTS SPEAK

It's time to gather together under the Listening Tree. Your Listening Tree can be an actual tree outside. Be sure to also create an inside Listening Tree for your story book word wall. Every time you read a selection to your scholars, remember to record the name, the author, and the illustrator on a leaf. Place the leaf on the tree. At the end of the year, your tree will be full.

Objective or Learning Target

Teacher: It's time to gather under the Listening Tree. The Listening Tree is where we hear lots of stories, songs, poems; everything that has to do with remembrance. Today we are going to learn about the parts of a book. At the end of this lesson, you will be able to show me the front cover of a book. Repeat after me **"I can identify the front cover of a book."**

Introduction

Teacher: Did you know that people all around the world love to listen to stories? Do you like to listen to stories? What's your favorite story? Let's turn and talk to our partner about our favorite story. **(Be sure to establish your system for Turn and Talk before telling the children to do so. If you are only instructing one child, have a conversation together.)** OK scholars. Turn back to me. Can one person share with the group their favorite story? (Child shares).

Like I said earlier, people all around the world love to hear stories. Sometimes we hear stories from books, sometimes we hear stories on the radio, or even on TV. Sometimes we listen to stories from story tellers. Story tellers tell stories from their memories. In Africa, there are special storytellers called Griots. Can you say that word? (children repeat). A griot (Google: griot. Share the images with the students.) is a traveling historian, poet, musician, and storyteller in West Africa. Griots are very intelligent. They can remember stories from waaay back in the past. They keep their community's history and culture alive. Griots have to be good listeners in order to remember so much.

Hmmm. I really like that word "griot". I think I want to write it on a card and put it on my Reading Vocabulary Word Wall so that I can remember my new word. (write "griot" on an index card and place it on your Reading Vocabulary Word Wall).

Today I am going to read to you a wonderful story that talks about how amazing and wonderful you are...but before I show you the book I want to set the atmosphere. I am going to play a song for you that talks about listening. The name of the song is *Breaths* and the griots who perform the song call themselves Sweet Honey in the Rock. Listen. (in put the following in your computer browser and play the song for about 2 minutes <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o3e-zLKyzLw>)
Now that we have set the atmosphere, let's open our minds, eyes, and ears to listen!

Lesson

Teacher: (Show the book) Today we are going to read this book. Before I begin, I want to show you 3 parts of a book. There are more parts to a book, but today we will look at 3. (Touch the corresponding parts). This is the **front cover** of the book. Repeat after me: front cover. This is the **back cover** of the book. Repeat after me: back cover. This is the **spine** of the book. Repeat after me: spine.

Why do you think this is called the front cover of the book? (accept answers). **The covers protect the inside of the book, and this is called the front cover because this is where we begin looking at the story. The front cover's purpose is to grab your attention and give you an idea of what the book is about. What do you see on the front cover of the book? (accept answers) Very good. Remember that the things on the front cover of the book help us to guess what the book will be about. Look at the pictures on the front cover again. What do you think this book will be about? (accept answers) Awesome. Well, let's read the book to find out.**

Read Aloud

Teacher: (Show the book) The name of this story is **Marvelous Me: Inside and Out**. This imaginary story, or FICTION story, was written by **Lisa Bullard** and illustrated by **Brandon Reibeling**. (whisper) Fiction just means the story was made up. Can you say that? Fiction. (Children repeat: Fiction)

Read the story without stopping for discussion.

Wow! That was quite a story. What did you think about the story? Turn and talk to your partner about your favorite part of the story. (Children turn and talk.) OK scholars, now turn back to me. Can someone share with the group their favorite part?... Awesomelll! By the way, (pointing to the front cover) what is this part of the book called. (the front cover) Awesome! **We accomplished what we set out to do. We identified the front cover of the book.**

Independent Work

I have to admit that I really love the front cover of this book. To me it says it all. Look at how Alex is smiling at himself when he looks in the mirror. He really knows that he is Mmmmmarvelous.

Today, you are going to be like Alex. You are going to look in the mirror (you may want to use a hand mirror) and see how awesome, beautiful, and wonderful you are. After you look in the mirror, I want you to draw a Mmmmagnificent picture of yourself. You will receive a paper, a pencil, and some crayons for your portrait. Please write your name at the bottom of your portrait. When you are done, we will hang your portrait on our walls for everyone to see how Mmmmmarvelous you are. Hmm. Marvelous begins with what sound? (Children answer) Yeah! /m/. You remembered. I think I want to add the word Marvelous to our Vocabulary Word Wall!

Distribute paper "mirrors" and allow the children to be creative. Walk around and ask children what they are drawing and what makes them marvelous.

Afro Beats

Teacher: It's time for Afro Beats. I have some beautiful marimba music that I would love to play for you. (<https://youtu.be/cKkrXQo1J58> Select performers from Africa. Give the children a little information about the music.) Everybody stand. When you hear the music, show us your best dance moves.

Allow the children to dance and then transition to the next learning area.