

A Turnip Tale

Turnips Through Time - Lesson 2



For the Classroom

- Group structure - whole group or small groups
- Location - at seats
- Approximate time - 45 minutes

Common Core and Georgia Standards of Excellence

- CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.6.3. Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, relevant descriptive details, and well-structured event sequences.

Materials

- Pencils (1 per child)
- Writing paper (1 per child)
- A selection of books based off of “The Gigantic Turnip” Russian Folktale:
 - “Gigantic Turnip” by Aleksei Tolstoy and Niamh Sharkey
 - “Grandma Lena's Big Ol' Turnip” by Denia Lewis Hester and Jackie Urbanovic
 - “The Turnip” by Jan Brett
 - “The Giant Carrot” by Jan Peck
 - “The Enormous Potato” by Aubrey Davis and Dusan Petricic



Reproducibles

- [“Narrative Writing Story Map” Sheet](#) (1 per child)

Directions

1. Share with students a selection of books based off of “The Gigantic Turnip” Russian folktale. Give students a chance to read through a few of them and ask them to notice what they have in common.
2. Ask students to share what they believe the moral the story is. Lead them to understanding that the moral is that with collaboration, and that if we all work together, we can do anything. Also, recognize that the humour in the story is that only with the help of the weakest and smallest creature can the giant turnip be pulled up.
3. Distribute one of the “Narrative Writing Story Map” sheets to each student. Explain to them that they will write their own tale with the same moral but theirs should be about cooking, sharing, or eating turnips rather than growing and harvesting turnips.
4. Encourage students to fill in ideas on their story map. Then, provide each child with a sheet of writing paper and have children use their mind map to write their story- including sequenced events and descriptive details.

Lesson Created by Jenna Mobley for Georgia Organics