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Introduction

Bubbles contains a captivating whole language, thematic unit. Its exciting pages are filled with a wide variety of lesson ideas and reproducible pages designed for use with primary children. At its core are two high-quality children's literature selections, *Never Snap at a Bubble* and *Professor Bubbles' Official Bubble Handbook*. For each of these books activities are included which set the stage for reading, encourage the enjoyment of the book, and extend the concepts gained. In addition, the theme is connected to the curriculum with activities in language arts (including daily writing suggestions), maths, science, social studies, art, music, and life skills (cooking, physical education, career awareness, etc.). Many of these activities encourage cooperative learning. Suggestions and patterns for bulletin boards and unit management tools are additional time savers for the busy teacher. Furthermore, directions for student-created Big Books and a culminating activity, which allow students to synthesize their knowledge in order to produce products that can be shared beyond the classroom, highlight this very complete teacher resource.

This thematic unit includes:

- literature selections** — summaries of two children's books with related lessons (complete with reproducible pages) that cross the curriculum
- poetry** — suggested selections and lessons enabling students to write and publish their own works
- planning guides** — suggestions for sequencing lessons each day of the unit
- writing ideas** — daily suggestions as well as activities across the curriculum, including Big Wall Books and Window Books
- bulletin board ideas** — suggestions and plans for student-created and/or interactive bulletin boards
- homework suggestions** — extending the unit to the child's home
- curriculum connections** — in language arts, maths, science, social studies, art, music, and life skills such as cooking, physical education, and career awareness
- group projects** — to foster cooperative learning
- a culminating activity** — which requires students to synthesize their learning to produce a product or engage in an activity that can be shared with others
- a bibliography** — suggesting additional literature and nonfiction books on the theme

Never Snap at a Bubble

by Yvonne Winer and Carol Aitken McLean-Carr

Summary

This story and its illustrations will spark the wonder of bubbles. Students will discover rhythm, repetition, and sentence structure as the themes of family, counting, bubble science, self-image, and responsibility are explored. This book is available in both Big and little book sizes.

Baby Frog is fascinated with the pond's bubbles. He ignores his parents repeated warnings, "Never snap at a bubble." As he swallows the bubbles, he stretches and stretches like a balloon. The creatures of the pond watch in amazement as Baby Frog faces the consequences of not listening.

The outline below is a suggested plan for using the various activities that are presented in this unit. You may adapt these ideas to fit your own classroom situations.

Sample Plan

Day I

- Introduce unit with bulletin board activity (page 71)
- Do "My Bubble Brainstorm": pre-reading strategy (page 10)
- Get acquainted with bubbles
- Complete Story Frame (page 13)
- Read *Never Snap at a Bubble* aloud to class; predict ending (page 6)
- Bubbleologist Journal (page 28)
- Assign homework: The Search for Bubbles (page 6)
- **Remind students to bring in small containers to store bubble solutions!**

Day II

- Book Talks (page 6)
- Bubble Trivia (page 27)
- Complete Bubble Journey Worksheet (page 14)
- Make Bubble Collage (page 66)
- Make Bubbleologist Bubble Solution (page 68)
- Bobbin' Bubble Poems (page 38)
- Science: News on Bubbles (page 58)
- Continue Bubbleologist Journal (page 28)
- Create Floating Frog (page 66)
- Design Bubble Bookmarks (page 11)

Day III

- Continue Bubble Trivia (page 27)
- Creative Writing: Bubble-toons (page 29)
- Maths: The Longest Frog Race (page 53)
- Complete Story Sequence Strips (page 16)
- Bubble Lollipops (page 68)
- Continue Bubbleologist Journal (page 28)

Day IV

- Continue Bubble Trivia (page 27)
- Poem: Bubble Square Dance (page 42)
- Science/maths: Bubble Patterns (page 61)
- Comprehension: Story Summary (page 17)
- Bubble Thoughts Creative Writing (page 33)
- Create Bubble Invitations (page 7)
- Wall Book (page 18)
- Design Bubble Jar Labels (page 40)

Day V

- Creative Writing: Bubbles Magically Escape (page 32)
- Bubble Window Book (page 18)
- The Deep Dive for Rhyming (page 46)
- Bubble Party Day (page 7)

Bubble Web

A web can be useful in the following ways:

- To determine prior knowledge of theme
 - To help students organize their thoughts
 - To serve as an evaluation tool
1. Before beginning a thematic unit, allow students to brainstorm and orally express all they know about the thematic unit concept. On A3 paper draw a circle in the centre and place the thematic unit concept inside the circle. Draw lines from the circle and write the students' responses on the lines. **All** responses are to be written down. The responses will help you to determine what they really do know about the theme concept, and can be invaluable in determining your lesson plans. Use illustrations and words with younger children.
 2. Creating a web allows students to focus their thoughts. As the thematic unit is being taught, students can evaluate their web in an ongoing manner, updating or changing facts stated on the web. Have students complete their individual bubble brainstorm (page 10). Store in bubble journal and as they learn something new, or desire to change a previously stated response, they simply make the changes on their own web.
 3. As an evaluation tool refer to the original web used at the beginning of thematic unit. Reread the initial responses given. Using a different color marker, make deletions (crossing out incorrect responses) or add new knowledge on additional lines. Compare the initial responses to the deletions or additions to evaluate the students' knowledge gained through the thematic unit presented.

