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Introduction and Sample Lessons

Children of all ages have become friends with Dr. Seuss through his wonderful use of rhyme, repetition, and colourful characters. Dr. Seuss makes beginning reading fun, and children can find success as they memorise their favorite rhymes. They then begin the decoding process which occurs naturally with repeated readings. When young readers are introduced to the language of Dr. Seuss, they will want to hear and read his books over and over again. Teachers will find that this literature unit will help them guide their students through *The Cat in the Hat* with a variety of activities that focus on beginning reading skills, including rhyming, listening, speaking, writing, vocabulary, comprehension, and word recognition skills.

A Sample Lesson Plan

A detailed sample lesson plan is provided on page 4. Each lesson can be completed in one day or may be extended to suit the needs of the class. Refer to the Suggestions for Using the Unit Activities on pages 7–10 for information and ideas relating to each activity.

A Unit Planner

A blank unit planner is provided on page 5 for you to write your own lesson plans. Reproduce copies of the Unit Planner as needed.



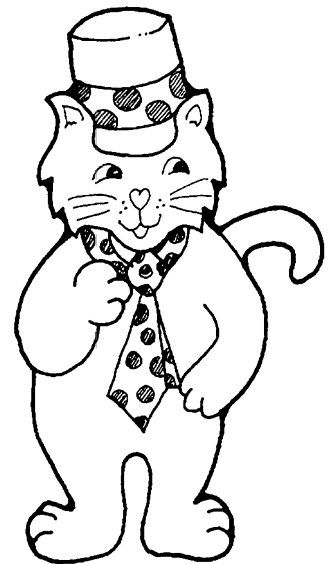
Suggestions for Using the Unit Activities

Use some or all of the following activities which guide the students into, through, and beyond the story with activities which promote decoding, comprehension, and appreciation of the book. To assist the teacher with planning, the suggested activities are categorised as follows:

- Setting the Stage:** prereading activities and suggestions for preparing the classroom
- Language Arts Activities:** activities that promote word recognition and comprehension as well as appreciation of the book
- Across the Curriculum:** activities that extend the reader's understanding and appreciation of the book

Setting the Stage

1. Discuss rainy day activities and create a Rainy Day Bulletin Board. Follow the directions on page 11. A Rainy Day Fun activity student page is provided on page 12 for homework or classwork.
2. Consider using *The Cat in the Hat* to introduce your social studies unit about safety or stranger awareness.
3. Collect real hats and/or pictures of hats that can be displayed around the room to promote interest. Each day you teach the unit put on a hat (or show a picture of a hat) to signal to students that it is reading time. Encourage students to tell who would wear such a hat.
4. Set the stage and build background by discussing the following:
 - Have you ever been left alone at home? Why or why not?
 - What activities are you allowed/not allowed to do when alone?
 - Discuss a time when it took lots of courage to tell something to your parents.
 - What would you do if a stranger came to your door while you were home alone?
 - Share any experiences you have about strangers.
 - Discuss (or review from the Rainy Day Bulletin Board) rainy day activities.
5. Create folders to organise and store student work. See directions on page 13.



Language Arts Activities

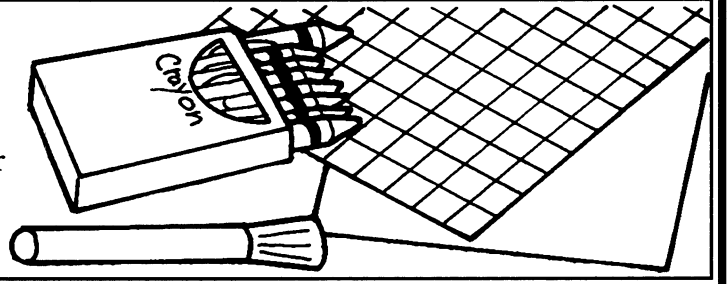
1. Pocket Chart Activities: Rhyme Cards and Games

Develop a strong sight vocabulary of rhyming words to promote fluency in decoding skills. Trace cat and hat patterns from page 15 on heavy paper and write rhyming words that can be used for a variety of activities. Directions are on page 14.

Rainy Day Bulletin Board

Materials:

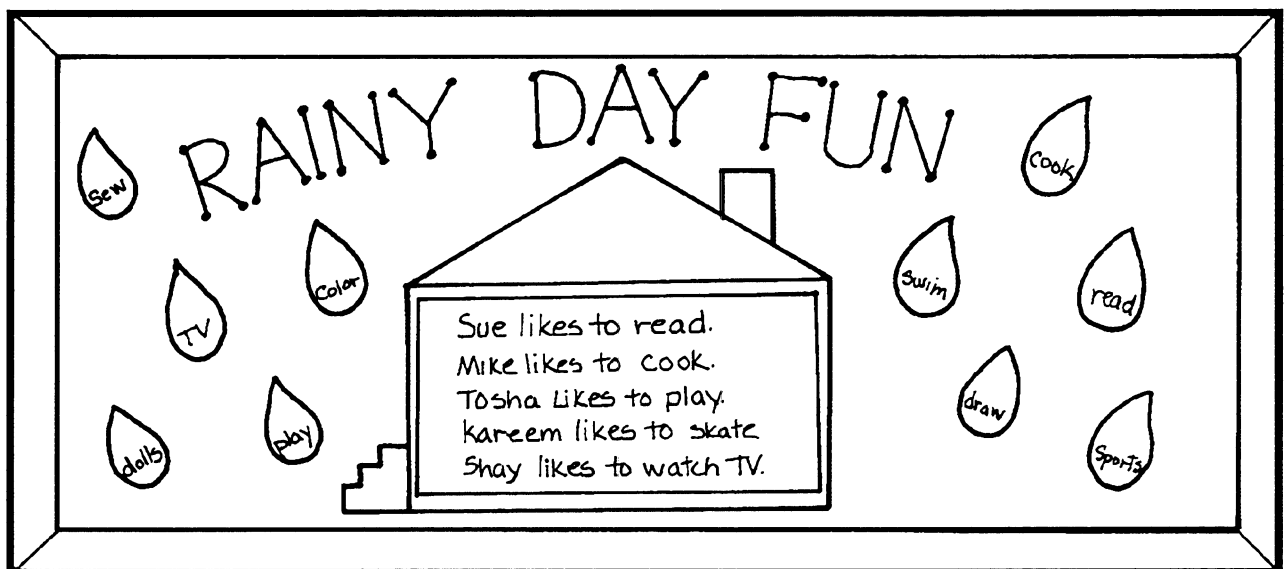
- red butcher paper
- lined chart paper
- blue or white construction paper
- textas
- crayons



Engage prior knowledge and oral language skills by having students discuss rainy day activities and then create a bulletin board displaying their ideas.

Directions:

1. Prepare a red house background (see sample bulletin board below). Measure your chart paper and then add 10 cm to the dimensions. Use the new dimensions to create a red rectangular house. Add a red roof, chimney, and steps.
2. Use your own lettering to create a Rainy Day Fun caption.
3. Cut a large blue (or white) raindrop for each student in your class, or make a pattern and let students cut their own.
4. Discuss rainy day activities. The Rainy Day Fun student page can be completed during this lesson or for homework before or after the lesson. (See page 12.)
5. Ask all of the students to tell you something they like to do on a rainy day. Write their responses on the chart in pen. (Short phrases or one-word answers work best so they can be easily read.)
6. Students trace words with textas and decorate the raindrops with crayons.
7. Staple lined paper on the house, completing the bulletin board.



Name _____

Rainy Day Fun

The children in *The Cat in the Hat* did not know what to do on such a rainy day. Think of 10 things you can do on a rainy day and write them in the raindrops. Then write some sentences about your favorite rainy day in the space below.

My Favorite Rainy Day Fun

