

Title: Junior Science: Floating and Sinking

Author: Terry Jennings

Publisher: Gloucester Press

Copyright Year: 1988

Reading Level: 1st Grade

Genre: Nonfiction

Synopsis: This book talks about things that sink and float. It has a lot of neat activities that students can do to see if objects sink or float when placed in water. It also talks about boats and how they float. If a boat was rolled into a ball, it would sink. The material and shape of the objects depends on whether they will sink or float.

Theme: Sink or Float

Activity 1

Source: This book

Objective: The students will do experiments to see which objects sink or float.

Activity: Give each student some clay. Have half of the students roll their clay into a ball and have the other half make a clay boat. Then, have the students who rolled balls go to the water table and put them into the water. The balls will sink. Then have the students who made boats do the same thing and the boats should float. Next, fill an aluminum pop can with water and place it in the water; it should sink. Then put an empty pop can in the water and it should float.

Activity 2

Source: Leanne Rakestraw

Objective: The students will write down their observations from the above activity.

Activity: After seeing different objects sink and float, the students will write down their observations in a journal. They should write down exactly what they say and why they think certain things sank and others floated.

Title: My Pet Dog

Author: Ruth Berman

Publisher: Lerner Publications Co.

Copyright Year: 2001

Reading Level: 3rd Grade

Genre: Nonfiction

Synopsis: This book is about a girl who wanted a puppy. It talks about the steps she went through in getting one. She had to research different breeds of dogs. Once she decided on a type of dog, she had to make her house dog proof. After she got the puppy, she had to care for it by feeding it, giving it water, cleaning it, and giving it love.

Theme: Responsibility

Activity 1

Source: Leanne Rakestraw

Objective: The students will recreate the steps the girl went through in the book to get the dog.

Activity: Students will be given paper for this activity. They will make a storyboard while recreating the main steps in getting a dog. After they have each step written out, they will illustrate a picture of what is going on.

Activity 2

Source: Leanne Rakestraw

Objective: The students learn responsibility and write about their experience.

Activity: Each student will be given a hardboiled egg at the beginning of the day to take care of. They have to take care of it until the end of the day. The object is to not let it be harmed in any way. The next day, students will write about their experiences. What was easy? What was difficult? Did they make it through the whole day without dropping it? If they didn't make it, what happened?

Title: The Science Book of Things that Grow

Author: Neil Ardley

Publisher: Gulliver Books

Copyright Year: 1991

Reading Level: 2nd Grade

Genre: Nonfiction

Synopsis: This book talks about the growth of plants. There is a section that talks about exactly how plants grow. Also, it talks about what seeds need in order to grow properly. It also talks about roots and there is an activity where you can make an indoor garden.

Theme: Growth

Activity 1

Source: Leanne Rakestraw

Objective: Students will each plant their own grass in a cup and monitor its growth.

Activity: The students will be given a clear paper cup with potting soil in it. They will also be given some grass seeds. They will place the grass seeds in the cup and watch their grass grow! There will be a couple of different students who water the grass when its needs it. Each day, students will look at their grass for any changes. They will write in a journal each day describing what they see. They should be looking for roots and then sprouts of grass.

Activity 2

Source: <http://www.uvm.edu/pss/ppp/articles/wintrfun.htm>

Objective: Students will make their own terrariums.

Activity: Carefully place some soil and a few mosses and plants (with roots) inside a clean mayonnaise jar. Keep your indoor garden moist with a plant mister, and cover the opening with clear plastic wrap. Have the students write any changes down that they see in their terrariums.

Title: Mom Can't See Me

Author: Sally Hobart Alexander

Publisher: Macmillan Publishing Co.

Copyright Year: 1990

Reading Level: 4th Grade

Genre: Nonfiction

Synopsis: This is a story about Sally's mom. Her mom went blind at the age of twenty-six because of blood vessels that broke in her eyes. Sally says her mom is totally normal, except for her eyes, which have sunglasses on them. Even though she is blind, her mom still does what other moms can do. She also does things she used to do before she was blind like play piano, swim, and sing.

Theme: Blindness

Activity 1

Source: Leanne Rakestraw

Objective: The students will feel what it is like to be blind.

Activity: Split the students into pairs. Give each pair a blindfold and have one of them be blindfolded while the other will be their guide. Have them lead each other around the room and through parts of the school. After a while, switch. When they are finished, have the students write about their experiences. What was different? What was difficult? What was easy? How would they feel if they were blind all of the time?

Activity 2

Source: Leanne Rakestraw

Objective: The students will research blindness and write a report.

Activity: Have the students research blindness on the internet and write a paper about it. What are the causes? Are there different types of blindness? What options are there for blind people? Can blind people live normal lives?

Title: If You Hopped Like a Frog

Author: David M. Schwartz

Publisher: Scholastic

Copyright Year: 1999

Reading Level: 6th Grade

Genre: Nonfiction

Synopsis: This book talks about different creatures and what you could do if you were them. Like, "if you jumped like a frog you could jump from home to first base in one mighty leap." Other creatures include ants, cranes, spiders, and shrews. Also, at the end of the book there are a couple of pages of information about each of the creature. I really loved the pictures!

Theme: Creature Information

Activity 1

Source:

http://www.readwritethink.org/lessons/lesson_view.asp?id=822

Objective: Students will write their thoughts about the book in a journal.

Activity: Invite students to comment, by asking open-ended questions such as the following:

- What animal feat do you find the most interesting? Why?
- Why can these animals do these things?
- What do these animal feats tell us about the animals' adaptations to their environment?

Activity 2

Source:

http://www.readwritethink.org/lessons/lesson_view.asp?id=822

Objective: The students will create books.

Activity: Research statistics for any animal, using print and online resources. Create a short book, using the [Stapleless Book](#) for a younger child (pen pal, reading buddy), that uses familiar comparisons to illustrate some of the mathematical statistics about animals. Be sure to use comparisons that reflect the experiences of young children. (Students might also explain how the animals' adaptations help it survive.)

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