

Teacher's Resource Guide for Stلالuna

Multicultural Thematic Unit For Stلالuna Written by Janell Cannon Unit Developed by Sherrie Wiedyk

Summary...

The story's ending is an easy way to summarize the events. Two birds have conversation with each other and say, "How can we be so different and feel so much alike?" and the other one says, "And how can we feel so different and be so much alike?" Then the bat, Stلالuna says, "But we're friends. And that's a fact." It all begins when a young bat, Stلالuna, ends up in a bird's nest and is raised like a bird for awhile. After a time of trying to act like a bird and after teaching the birds how to act like a bat, Stلالuna is reunited with her mother. The baby birds and Stلالuna realize that even though they have a lot of differences, they can still be friends. This book teaches that people can work together, despite differences. In life you will find different cultures working together to build strong communities.

Reading Level ...

Read aloud: Kindergarten and up Read alone: Second grade and up

Themes...

Community Growing up Differences in People Families Survival

Before Reading Questions...

Show the book cover and ask, "What do you think this is about?" Have you ever learned a new trick or learned something new from someone else? Did you enjoy learning this? What is a community? (Explain that a community is different types of people working together sharing their talents and abilities. Prior activities for community discussion should start small, with building community in the classroom, then leading the discussion to community outside the classroom). How are some people different from other people (e. g., hair color, skin color, tall, short, etc.). Do these people become friends with each other?

Purpose...

Vocabulary...

Discuss the word community and how people are from different cultures and have different tradition.

After Reading Questions...

Use the following questions to start discussion. Who is the main character in the story? What is the big picture of the story (summary)? How would you describe the friendship between the birds and Stلالuna? Why did they like each other even though they had differences?

Language Arts ...

Draw a picture of your favorite part from the story and write what is happening in your picture. Write descriptive words of the friendship between Stellanuna and the birds. Rewrite the story as a class, using different characters but same basic story line. Then let each child illustrate a page of the story and put each page together for a book. Children will love rereading their new story! Have the children pretend they are Stellanuna and have them write a letter to the birds. Have them pretend that Stellanuna is back with her mom, and now she is writing the bird family to let them know what it is like living with the bat family. Be sure to show examples of how a letter is written. Have students write about a time when they learned something from somebody else (a magic trick, how to cook something, how to make something, etc.) Then they could demonstrate this.

Social Studies ...

Have the students study different types of communities: cities, towns, country, and different cultures in these areas. Even discuss the different kinds of houses people live in. Talk about how people in communities work together, there are different jobs, and how people must use problem-solving skills in order to work together. Discuss ways we talk out our problems. Have the students raise money in a Loose Change Jar(s) for a specific cause in the community (Goodwill Larc, Salvation Army, a homeless shelter, etc.). Have them placed in various places in the school, maybe even different classrooms for a contest to see who can raise the most. Have the students get into groups for counting the money from the Loose Change Jars. Calculators can be used if there is a lot of money. They can practice counting by 5's and 10's with the money.

Math...**Art...**

Have the student's illustrate a rewritten Stellanuna. Make posters advertising the Loose Change Jar.

Science...**Background Information ...****About the Author...**

Janell Cannon is a self-taught artist and writer who has always admired animals that have been misunderstood, such as bats, spiders, Komodo dragons, and snakes. Before she became a creator of books, she worked for many years in a public library developing award-winning summer reading programs about these unusual animals. While looking for books on bats, she found only two, so she decided it was time to make her own story about these wonderful creatures. Janell Cannon created Stellanuna (1994) in hopes to cure the fear of bats into informed affection. She has also written Trupp: A Fuzzhead Tale (Harcourt Brace, 1995) and Verdi (Harcourt Brace, 1997). She was born and raised in Minnesota, but now she lives in southern California with a parrot and two cats.

Suggested Readings ...

I Wish I Were a Butterfly by James Howe How My Parents Learned to Eat by Ina R. Friedman
Community/Family The Doorbell Rang by Pat Hutchins What is a Family? By Gretchen Super
Verdi by Janell Cannon