

Modified Lesson Plan Task

Task: Your task is to read the following story and think of how you might present it to a group of 4th grade students in a literacy class. Then respond to the 3 items that follow the story.

Cornelius:

When all of the eggs hatched, the baby crocodiles crawled out onto the river beach. But one crocodile was different; he walked upright and his name was Cornelius. As he grew older and stronger Cornelius spent most of his time walking on his hind legs. He could see things that no other crocodile had ever seen. In his enthusiasm, Cornelius shared with the other crocodiles all about the exciting things he could see and do, but they responded with complete indifference and a rude “So what!” Faced with this rejection, Cornelius became angry and decided to leave the river beach. As he walked into the jungle, Cornelius met a monkey. He proudly began to tell the monkey all the things he could see and do. Not to be outdone, the monkey tells Cornelius that he can stand on his head and swing from his tail. Fascinated, Cornelius asked if he could learn to do those tricks as well. The monkey agrees to teach Cornelius and, after much practice and hard work, Cornelius masters his new tricks. Then Cornelius proudly returns to the river beach to show the others. They react in exactly the same way as they had before. Cornelius angrily decides to leave the river beach and return to the monkey. But as he walks away, Cornelius turns back and sees that the other crocodile are trying desperately to stand on their heads and swing from their tails. Cornelius smiles in the knowledge that life on the river beach will never be the same again.

1. Describe briefly how you might prepare your students to read the passage above.

I would begin by asking students for examples that show kindness to others and then ask for most likely reactions to these acts of kindness. Then I would ask for examples that show unkindness to others and again ask for possible reactions to unkindness. Then I would flow to the idea of words being used during these communications and pose the question as to whether our words sometimes contradict our real thoughts.

2. What purpose for reading would you use to focus your students' attention on the reading task?

I would want the students to use our discussion above to flow to the purpose as to whether the story will show whether words reflect our true feelings or whether words can contradict one's true feelings.

3. List five (5) questions that you might use to assess the comprehension of the students who read the passage.

1) How did the author show that Cornelius' words that were spoken in excitement could be misread by others?

2) Did the crocodiles have any possible reason for being annoyed with Cornelius?

3) When the Monkey told Cornelius about his talents, how did Cornelius show that he was not like the crocodiles?

4) How did Cornelius show that he had high hopes for the crocodiles?

5) How did Cornelius finally learn that the words of the crocodiles did not really match their true feelings?