



Discussion Guide for

HOTEL ANIMAL

Author

Keith DuQuette

Publisher:

Viking

THEME:

Our view of the world is often shaped by our size and its proportion to objects in the environment.

PROGRAM SUMMARY:

Hotel Animal explores math from an amusingly tiny point of view. The story examines the humorous adventures experienced by a pair of petite lizards who check into the amply sized Hotel Animal. In equally amusing segments, LeVar explores size relationships and proportion as his imagination takes him on a topsy-turvy ride when he shrinks to the size of a pencil and grows as large as a giant.

TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION:

Encourage students to use their imaginations and suppose what they could do if they were very tiny or very huge, that they could not do as a person of normal size.

Invite students to share activities they can now do that they were too small to do previously. Discuss with students those things that adults typically tell them they are "too small" to do.

Have students share experiences with staying at hotels or motels and discuss the advantages and disadvantages of staying in these places.

Discuss the reactions of the other hotel guests to Camille and Leon because of their size. Compare these reactions to comments often made to people who are shorter or taller than most (e.g., "Hey, Shorty!" or "How's the weather up there?") and discuss their feelings about these remarks.

CURRICULUM EXTENSION ACTIVITIES:

Camille and Leon owned an insect market and sold insects to other reptiles. Have students research animals that eat insects to find other customers for the Lizardos' market.

Prepare two large charts with one of these sentence frames on each chart: "Being tall is helpful if you are ..." and "Being short is helpful if you are...." Have students draw and label pictures to complete the sentences and attach them to the chart.

Have students research books, CD ROMS, and other materials to compile list of animals that might be potential vacationers at Hotel Animal Too. Based on the animals in the story and illustrations, they will need to decide on a maximum size for these small visitors.

Work with the art teacher on a lesson in perspective drawing. Have students draw a picture of an animal (e.g., a bear) at a large size in the foreground and very small at a distance.

Demonstrate how to add background details to show this perspective. In another picture, have students draw a small animal such as a mouse in the foreground, and a large animal such as an elephant, in the background. Discuss how perspective changes size relationships.

Have students imagine that they are viewing common objects through the eyes of Camille or Leon and draw what they see. They might draw such objects as a wristwatch, a spool of thread, a teacup, a ring, a feather, etc.. "Two Bad Ants" by Chris Van Allsburg might give them some ideas about this type of perspective.

Have students write television commercials and newspaper or magazine advertisements for Hotel Animal. Discuss the types of information that appears in these types of ads. Perform the commercials and display the ads.

Solicit collections of matchbox cars from students, (Initial the bottoms so they are returned to the rightful owners when activities are completed.) Have students estimate how long an actual car is using the matchbox cars as an alternative unit of measurement. Invite students to problem solve ways to figure the actual number and try out their ideas.

Invite someone who is a train hobbyist, builds dollhouses or collects miniatures into the classroom to talk to the students about his/her hobby or do a demonstration.

RELATED READING RAINBOW PROGRAMS:

- Bugs
- Brush
- Digging Up Dinosaurs
- Owen

RELATED THEMES:

- Perspective
- Sandwiches
- Animals
- miniatures

About The Author:

Keith DuQuette is the author and illustrator of "A Ripping Day For A Picnic" and the illustrator of "Happy As Tapir" by Terry Carbone. He makes his home in Brooklyn, New York



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BOOKS REVIEWED BY CHILDREN:

MR. TALL AND MR. SMALL by Barbara Brenner, illus. by Mike Shenon (Henry Holt)

THE THREE BEARS by Paul Galdone (Clarion)

ZOOM by Istvan Banyai (Viking)

SUPPLEMENTARY BOOKLIST

the KINGS FLOWER by Mitsumasa Anno (Collins)

THE GROUCHY LADYBUG by Eric Carle (Crowell)

THE BIGNESS CONTEST by Florence Parry Heide, illus. by Victoria Chess (Little, Brown)

IS IT LARGER? IS IT SMALLER? by Tana Hoban (Greenwillow)

GEORGE SHRINKS by George Joyce (HarperCollins)

BLUE SEA by Robert Kalan, illus. by Donald Crews (Greenwillow)

MUCH BIGGER THAN MARTIN by Steven Kellog (Dial)

BIG AND LITTLE by Ruth Krauss (Scholastic)

BIG, SMALL, SHORT, TALL by Loreen Leedy (Holiday House)

BIG, SMALL, SHORT AND TALL by Ron Roy (Clarion)

BIG AND LITTLE by William Jay Smith, illus. by Don Belongese (Boyd's Mills)

TWO BAD ANTS by Chris Van Allsburg (Houghton Mifflin)

Programs Details

Length:

30 minutes

Subject Areas:

Math/ Transportation

Audience Levels:

Ages 6 - 11

Order Number:

5-44845G

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