



Discussion Guide for

ON THE DAY YOU WERE BORN

Author:

Debra Frasier

Publisher:

Harcourt Brace

THEME:

The birth of a child is cause for great celebration.

PROGRAM SUMMARY:

On The Day You Were Born, written by Debra Frasier and narrated by Patrick Stewart, explores the wonder and beauty that surrounds the birth of a child.

LeVar visits a maternity ward filled with newborns, and viewers meet a family preparing for the arrival of a new family member. The program travels into the delivery room to share in the moments surrounding the baby's birth.

TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION:

Invite students to share their experiences of being an older or younger sibling, welcoming a new baby to the family or the stories of how they were welcomed by older brothers or sisters.

Discuss how our lives change when someone new enters our lives, whether that person is a new brother or sister, a new parent, a new neighbor, a new classmate, etc.

Have each student tell one thing that makes her or him special.

In the story, the new child is welcomed by all aspects of nature, including stars, the moon, the wind, many animals, etc. Have students think about what part of the natural world they would like to have welcome them and tell why they chose that particular thing.

CURRICULUM EXTENSION ACTIVITIES:

Invite some parents of infants to bring their babies to school. Have them share important information to remember about caring for babies, and demonstrate such activities as feeding, changing, and holding a baby. With adult supervision, allow time for the students to interact with the babies.

Most people have a story that has been told to them about the day they were born. Have students ask their parents about the day and share their stories with the class. For some students, it might be the day they came to their adoptive family. (It is important to be sensitive to individual family situations with an activity of this type.)

Have students bring in a baby picture and display them on a bulletin board without name labels. (The teacher should also display a picture.) Invite students to guess the identity of each baby.

Have students write and illustrate biographical baby books. Topics for the book might include: "My First Day" (with a sentence to complete, "Everyone said I _____");

"Something Funny I Always Did;" "My First Tooth;" "My First Word;" "My Favorite Toy;" "My First Birthday," and others. They will need to interview their parents for this information.

Brainstorm a list of animals, and have students research the name of the animal "baby," e.g., goose - gosling, sheep - lamb. After they have listed their information, have them notice different types of animals that have the same name for their young. For example, "calf" is the term for a young buffalo, camel, dolphin, elephant, giraffe, whale, and rhinoceros, as well as a cow.

Make a graph of the birth month of all the students in the class and their siblings. Notice which month has the most babies born, which has the least, and other details from the graph. Call a local hospital and ask for birth statistics (numbers for each month only) for the past year. Compare the class graph with the hospital records.

A young person often needs a babysitter. Have students write a want ad for a babysitter, in which they identify what they feel are the necessary qualifications.

There are several different science concepts mentioned in the story, including animal migration, the rotation of the earth, gravity, the sun, phases of the moon, stars and constellations, tides, precipitation, trees, the atmosphere, and skin pigmentation. A brief discussion of each of these concepts is located in the back of the book. Have students choose one of these topics for further research and share their findings with the class.

RELATED READING RAINBOW PROGRAMS:

- Through Moon and Stars and Night Skies

RELATED THEMES:

- family
- sibling relationships
- life cycles
- natural world



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ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Debra Frasier has worked for many years designing projects that combine natural history and visual arts to be used in Artist-in-Education programs. She has also built several cloth wind sculptures in cities across the U.S. A native of Florida, she now lives with her husband and daughter in Minneapolis, Minnesota. *On the Day You Were Born* is her first picture book.

BOOKS REVIEWED BY CHILDREN:

A TEENY TINY BABY by Amy Schwartz (Orchard Books)

HOW YOU WERE BORN by Joanna Cole, photographs by Margaret Miller (Morrow)

ONE ROUND MOON AND A STAR FOR ME by Ingrid Mennen, illus. by Niki Daly (Orchard Books)

SUPPLEMENTARY BOOKLIST:

THE BABY SISTER by Tomie dePaola (Putnam)

A RIDE ON MOTHER'S BACK by Emery Bernhard, illus. by Durga Bernhard (Gulliver/Harcourt Brace)

WAITING FOR BABY by Tom Birdseye, illus. by Loreen Leedy (Holiday House)

ON THE DAY I WAS BORN by Debbi Chocolate, illus. by Medodye Rosales. (Scholastic)

BIRTHDAYS!: CELEBRATING LIFE AROUND THE WORLD by Eve B. Feldman, art provided by Paintbrush Diplomacy (BndgeWater Books)

HAPPY BIRTH DAY by Robie H. Harris, illus. by Michael Emberley (Candlewick Press)

WELCOMING BABIES by Margy Burns Knight, illus. by Anne Sibley O'Brien (Tilbury House)

ALL THE PLACES TO LOVE by Patricia MacLachlan, illus. by Mike Wimmer (HarperCollins)

THE WORLD IS FULL OF BABIES by Mick Manning and Brita Granström (Doubleday)

THE BABY ZOO by Bruce McMillan (Scholastic)

TELL ME ABOUT WHEN I WAS A BABY by Lisa Rojany, illus. by K. A. Bickle (Price Stern Sloan)

MORE MORE MORE," SAID THE BABY by Vera B. Williams (Greenwillow)

Programs Details

Length:

30 minutes

Subject Areas:

Child Birth

Audience Levels:

Ages 6 - 11

Order Number:

5-4519SG

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