The Watermelon Seed

AUTHOR: Greg Pizzoli
ILLUSTRATOR: Greg Pizzoli
PUBLISHER: Disney Hyperion
COPYRIGHT DATE: 2013
ART MEDIUM: inked on bristol with a brush pen, screen printed by hand, and drawn with a tablet in Photoshop
GENRE: fantasy
LIFE SKILLS: Common Sense, Responsibility, Sense of Humor, Problem Solving

SYNOPSIS:
 A young crocodile swallows a watermelon seed and fears a watermelon will grow inside him.

BOOKTALK:
Have you ever swallowed a seed? Did anything happen? In this book, a young crocodile accidentally swallows a watermelon seed. He panics because he thinks a watermelon will start growing inside him.

AUTHOR: Greg Pizzoli

Greg Pizzoli is an author, illustrator, screen printer, and a college art teacher. He was a volunteer in the AmeriCORPS and has a Master's Degree in Art. He lives in Philadelphia with his wife and two unruly cats. This was his first picture book and it won the Theodor Seuss Geisel Award for 2014.

Other books written by the author:
Number One Sam
Not Very Scary
Tricky Vic
Klip Klop #1
C'mon Go

CHALLENGING WORDS:
slab
gulp
watermelon
crocodile
dessert
stomach

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Do you think it's reasonable for the crocodile to be afraid of a watermelon growing inside him?
2. What other fruits do you think the crocodile might like?
3. Do real crocodiles like to eat watermelon?
4. Do you like the book's illustrations?
5. When do you like to eat watermelon?
6. Why would the crocodile be in a fruit salad?
7. Why did his stomach feel funny?
8. Was a watermelon really growing in the crocodile's stomach?
9. How does the expression, "You are what you eat" relate to this story?
10. Explain the crocodile's expression on the final page of the story.

ACTIVITIES WITH STANDARDS:

Language Arts:

- Make a shape poem using the outline of a watermelon. Write about watermelons using your 5 senses.

  CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.2.3 Write narratives in which they recount a well-elaborated event or short sequence of events, include details to describe actions, thoughts, and feelings, use temporal words to signal event order, and provide a sense of closure.

- Research crocodiles and find out what they really like to eat. Where do they live? Write a short report.

  CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.2.2   Write informative/explanatory texts in which they introduce a topic, use facts and definitions to develop points, and provide a concluding statement or section**.**

- The saying that if you swallow a watermelon seed it will grow into a watermelon is a type of folklore. We know this isn't true, so let's make a cartoon of some other sayings. Choose one of these phrases and work in a collaborative group to make an original cartoon.
  - "Don't swallow your gum because it will stay in your stomach for seven years."
  - "It is bad luck to open an umbrella indoors."
  - "If you make a funny face, your face will stay that way."
  - "If you cross your eyes, they'll stay that way."
  - "Eating carrots helps you see better."

  RL.2.2 2.RL.2.2: Recount the beginning, middle, and ending of stories ,including fables and folktales from diverse

cultures, and determine their central message,
lesson, or moral.

- Students can be actively engaged in the story by using their arms like a crocodile each time you read the words: chomp, chomp.

  SL.1 : Listen actively and adjust the use of
  spoken language (e.g.,vocabulary) to communicate
  effectively with a variety of audiences and
  for different purposes.

- Have students act out and read the story in a Reader's Theater.

  RF. 5 Orally read grade-level appropriate or higher texts
  smoothly and accurately, with expression that connotes
  comprehension at the independent level.

  1.RL.1: With support, read and comprehend
  literature that is grade level appropriate.

- Research how a watermelon seed grows using the Super 3 research model.

  1.W.5 With support, conduct simple research
  on a topic. Identify several sources
  of information and indicate the sources.Organize information,
  using graphic organizers or other aids.
  Make informal presentations on information gathered.

  - Acting this story out is an exercise in fluency and reading with expression.

    2.RF.1 Demonstrate an understanding of the five components of
    reading (print concepts, phonemic awareness, phonics, vocabulary,
    and fluency and comprehension) to build foundational reading skills.

Mathematics:

- Estimate the number of seeds inside a watermelon.

  CCSS.MATH.CONTENT.K.MD.A.2
  Directly compare two objects with a measurable attribute in
  common, to see which object has "more of"/"less of" the attribute,
  and describe the difference. For example, directly compare the
  heights of two children and describe one child as taller/shorter.

Science:

- Plant a watermelon seed and watch it grow. What climate is best to grow watermelons?

  2.3.1 Observe closely over a period of time and then record in pictures and words the changes in plants and animals throughout their life cycles-including details of their body plan, structure and timing of growth, reproduction and death.

- Discuss seedless versus seeded watermelons.

  2.4.2 Identify technologies developed by humans to meet human needs. Investigate the limitations of technologies and how they have improved quality of life.

RELATED INTERNET SITES:

Author blog: http://gregpizzoli.blogspot.com/
Author website: http://www.gregpizzoli.com/

ACTIVITY SHEET CREATED BY:
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Position/Location: Media Specialist, Key Learning Community

Create a shape poem about the crocodile