



It's Your Story - Tell It!

*Early literacy skill-building workshop based on the 2015 One Book for Kids selection,
"The Fantastic Flying Books of Mr. Morris Lessmore" by William Joyce*

Age: K-2

Duration: Approximately one hour

Description: Help children explore important concepts such as developing a sense of self and artistic expression, while building early literacy skills. Each participant will take home a copy of "The Fantastic Flying Books of Mr. Morris Lessmore," a One Book, One San Diego patch, and a make-it-take-it craft.

PART I: Story time (read the book aloud from front to back cover), 20-25 minutes

Use "dialogic reading" techniques to engage the children in the experience and begin to understand the parts of the book and the narrative itself. This means ask lots of open ended questions as you read!

Examples include:

1. Point out the cover of the book, spine, dedication page, and title page. Ask which way do you turn the pages. Point to the words on a few pages to show that you read from left to right.
2. William Joyce is the author of this book. What does the author do?
3. William Joyce is also the illustrator. What does the illustrator do? (Explain that these are sometimes two different people and sometimes the same one, but that they are different jobs.)
4. What do you think happens next? (Who/When/Where questions, even using the pictures as reference points.)

When the story is over, ask a few follow-up questions about the book and how it connects to the children's lives. Examples include:

1. Morris Lessmore loved words. He loved stories. He loved books. What are your favorite words, stories or books?
2. The flying lady sees that Morris is sad and needs a new story, so she gives him her favorite book. How can a story help someone feel better? Have you ever felt bad and then heard a story that made you feel better? What kinds of stories and books make you feel better?
3. At the end of the book Morris flies off with his favorite books. How can books make you fly?
4. Where can we find books?

PART II: 15 minutes: Watch short film, "The Fantastic Flying Books of Mr. Morris Lessmore"

When the film ends, ask a few follow-up questions:

1. The film was a lot like the pictures in the book - very beautiful, whimsical and expressive. Did you notice anything new when you watched the movie that you didn't see before when we read the book?
2. How do the pictures help to tell the story?

PART III: Make Your Own Book Craft Activity, 20 minutes

Just like Morris Lessmore, we will begin to write our own stories in homemade books!

Materials:

- Computer paper (each book will need at least four sheets)
- Colored construction paper (each book will need one sheet)
- Stapler (or a hole-punch and yarn)
- Colored pencils, markers, crayons
- Optional: stickers, googly eyes, glue, paint etc. (for decorating)

Instructions:

1. Stack paper neatly (at least four sheets).
2. Fold the stack of paper in half.
3. Fold one sheet of colored paper on the outside.
4. Unfold your paper carefully and turn over the stack. Have an adult staple the book together along the spine. *Note: You can also use a hole-punch and sew the book together with yarn.
5. Draw a picture of yourself on the cover. This is *your* story!
6. On each page, draw a picture of something you like. Examples include your family, your favorite animal, your favorite TV show or book!