

Beyond the Page: Under the Lemon Moon

Subject: Language Arts; Social Studies

Running time: 18 minutes

Objectives

The student will:

- gain a deeper understanding of the book *Under the Lemon Moon*, written by Edith Hope Fine and illustrated by René King Moreno;
- be motivated to read more books and find out more about the author, illustrator, and subject matter; and
- learn more about how kids can volunteer in their communities.

Synopsis of the Book

One evening, the Night Man steals all the lemons from Rosalinda's favorite tree. The next day, a heartbroken Rosalinda looks for La Anciana, the Old One, because she helps things grow. To her dismay, she discovers her lemons for sale at the market. Then La Anciana appears and tells Rosalinda how to heal her lemon tree when the moon is full. That night the tree glows with lemons. The next morning, Rosalinda gives her lemons to friends and relatives. She hands her last one to the Night Man, who apologizes for the theft. She instructs him to plant the seeds while the moon is still full. That way he can help his impoverished family and himself.

Synopsis of the Video

At the Beyond the Page Café, Today's Special is *Under the Lemon Moon*, written by Edith Hope Fine and illustrated by René King Moreno. Join host Shelley as she reads the story aloud to the Café's visitors, and view an animation of Moreno's watercolor and pastel illustrations. After reading the story, the children have an online chat with Edith Hope Fine, who talks about her favorite part of the story. Then the kids watch a video about children's volunteer organizations and meet kids who contribute their time and energy to their communities.

Preview Questions/Discussions

1. This story is about a girl whose lemons are stolen from her tree. How do you think she might solve her problem?
2. What do you know about fantasy stories? What unusual things might happen?
3. This story takes place in a Mexican village. What people might you meet? What do you think the setting is like?

Post-Viewing Questions

1. How does Rosalinda get help from La Anciana, or the Old One?
2. How can you tell that Rosalinda is generous? Does she remind you of any one you know?
3. At the Beyond the Page Café, kids get information from books, videos, and the Internet. If you wanted to learn more about how kids can volunteer in their community, what media would you choose? Explain your choices.
4. Why did Alma Flor Ada choose the settings of a circus and a pier?

Related Activities

1. In the story, the moon is described as a "lemon wedge moon." Have students compare the moon to something else. Invite them to draw a picture of their special moon and write a poem underneath.
2. Ask students to brainstorm ways in which they can be generous at school or contribute to their communities. Help them work in groups to make an illustrated poster of their ideas.
3. Call on students to recall the online chat with Edith Hope Fine, the author of *Under the Lemon Moon*. Help students formulate their own questions for the author. Encourage them to send their questions and comments to Fine at this address:

Edith Hope Fine
c/o Lee & Low Books Inc.
95 Madison Avenue
New York, NY 10016

Resources

Disney Educational Productions

www.Edustation.Disney.com

Additional information, including books, videos, and Web links.

KinderGarden

<http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/kindergarden/kinder.htm>

Ideas to help children grow school, community, or botanic gardens. Includes nutrition tips, instructions for making a science center, and numerous links.

National Education Technology Standards Project

<http://cnets.iste.org/index2.html>

(Scroll to Search Lessons. Pull down Awesome Authors.)

Araujo, Frank P, *The Perfect Orange: A Tale from Ethiopia*; illustrated by Hsiao-Chun Li and Xiao J. Li (Rayve Productions, 1994).

Compentine, Ying Chang, *The Runaway Rice Cake*; illustrated by Tungwai Chau (Simon & Schuster Children's, 2001).