

Thank you, Sarah (The Woman Who Saved Thanksgiving)

K-4

Written by Laurie Halse Anderson

Illustrated by Matt Faulkner

Published by Simon & Schuster Books For Young Readers

Spoken Arts Video - 9694

Running Time: 11 minutes

Story Summary

We the people of the United States... almost LOST Thanksgiving? Yes, that's right! Way back when "skirts were long and hats were tall" Americans were forgetting Thanksgiving, and nobody seemed to care! Thankfully, Sarah Hale appeared. More steadfast than Plymouth Rock, this lady editor knew the holiday needed saving. But, would her recipe for rescue ever convince Congress and the presidents?

Objectives

Children will look at a picture and try to predict the story.

Children will put their own stories into sequential order, to see how important this is.

Children will discuss the idea of persuasion, and how Sarah used it to succeed.

Before viewing the video

Look at the picture on the cover of the book or video. What does this picture tell us? From her clothes, her hat, her desk, when do you think she lived? What was she doing? Predict what the story is about.

Questions to ask after viewing the video

1. At the beginning of the story, which part of the country celebrated Thanksgiving, and which areas did not?
2. What were some of the words used to describe Sarah Hale?
3. What were some of the wonderful things Sarah did?
4. What did she do when she saw something she didn't like?
5. In the story, it said that she persuaded people to make the world a better place. What does "persuaded" mean?
6. Who listened to her? What did they do to help?
7. To which President did she first write?
8. How many Presidents in all did she write to about Thanksgiving?
9. Which President finally said 'YES'?
10. How many years did it take?

Activities

1. Look at the pictures again. The illustrator drew many details, especially with regard to the clothes. The women in Sarah's day wore long skirts with bustles, hats, or caps on their heads, laced up shoes. Find other books showing the clothes of this time period. Draw pictures of Sarah and her friends.
2. Have you ever persuaded someone to do something? Write a story about this. Be sure to include a beginning, middle and end when you write the story. The children can illustrate their stories, compiling the pictures into a book.
3. Using the pictures from the previous activity, have the children cut out the individual pictures, putting their pictures in the correct order, telling their story. Then put the pictures out of order and try to tell the story now!
4. Discuss something that is happening in either your school, community or the world.
Have the children write letters, trying to persuade someone to do something. Mail these letters and see if you get results!

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