

Smarty pants (Pete In School)

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Running Time: 16 minutes

Spoken Arts Video 9702

Story Summary

Having a dog in class is always a clue that it is going to be an interesting day, especially when the dog in question, and the one with all the answers, is Pete. Pete has a big appetite for knowledge!

Before viewing the video

Ask the children to look at either the cover of the book, Smarty pants, or the cover of the video box. What do they think will happen in the story? HOW do they think it happened? Ask them to predict what will happen to Pete in school.

Questions to ask after viewing the video

1. What did Poppy say is the one thing Pete always thinks about?
2. What were some of the things Pete ate at the beginning of the story?
3. List some of the bad things Poppy said about school.
4. List some of the good things she listed.
5. Why did Pete run into the classroom?
6. What were some of the things Pete ate in Mr. Spitzer's classroom?
7. Why does Poppy like the art teacher, Miss Crumple?
8. What did Pete eat in the principal's office?
9. How did Poppy know that something amazing had happened to Pete?
10. What were some of the things Pete told them?
11. What did Pete do for the rest of that day in school?
12. What happened to Pete that night?
13. What are some of the things Poppy learned that day?
14. List some of the questions on the POP QUIZ at the end of the story.

Activities

1. Discuss the idea of fantasy, and how this story, with a dog swallowing an encyclopedia and getting so smart, is a good example. Ask the children to imagine other fantastical stories for Pete. What other stories have they read with a character who can do something so unusual, like Pete?
2. Ask the children to write a story in which a character can do something that is normally impossible. Discuss the idea of beginning, middle and end, and how this was used in "Smartypants." Make sure in their writings, they use this important tool to help them organize their stories.
3. Look at the names in the story. How did the characters get names like Miss Honeybee, Mr. Grompi Spitzer, Miss Magma, and Miss Crumple? Make up some other names that have meanings like those in this story. Have the children draw pictures of what these people would look like, and put the names underneath.
4. Mr. Dividar Divecky worships the thesaurus. Ask the class to list some words on the board, and using a thesaurus, find other, more interesting synonyms for these words. With the class as a whole, write a funny story using unusual words from the thesaurus.
5. Have the class make up a funny pop quiz based on something that has happened in school, or on a class trip, or on a lesson you have taught. Have fun!

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