

Testing Miss Malarkey

1-4

Written by Judy Finchler
Illustrated by Kevin O'Malley

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Running Time: 8 Minutes

Story Summary

The new school year brings standardized testing to every school, and Miss Malarkey's classroom is no exception. Teachers, students, and even parents are preparing for THE TEST, and the school is in an uproar. Even though the grown-ups tell the children not to worry, they are acting a little strange. The gym teacher is teaching stress-reducing yoga, parents are giving pop quizzes on bedtime stories, and the cafeteria is serving 'brain food' for lunch. The kids are starting to think that maybe the test is more important than they are being led to believe.

Objectives

- Children will talk about testing and how it makes them feel
- Children will make up questions for a class test.
- Children will plan and act out skits based on a certain theme.

Before viewing the video

Write the word "TEST" on the board in large letters. Sit down. See what kind of questions you get, what kinds of emotions the children express by seeing this one word. Ask them after a few minutes how they feel, why they are feeling what they feel.

Questions to ask after viewing the video

1. Why was Miss Malarkey acting weird?
2. What did she say about the test and how it would affect the children?
3. What did she do that showed she was nervous?
4. Why was Principal Wiggins yelling?
5. Why did they serve fish in the cafeteria?
6. Why did the children get nervous about the test?
7. What are some of the things that went on the day of the test?
8. How did everyone act when the test was over?

Activities

1. Ask the children why we get nervous when we have to take a test. Tell them the difference between this test, which really tests the school, and a test that they study for which counts toward their grade.
2. Working in groups, have the children make up a funny test. The sillier the questions, the better! Let the groups give each other their tests.
3. Using a book the whole class has read, or a lesson you have taught, let each child submit questions for the test. Compile these questions. This test will probably be more challenging than any you would give!
4. Put the names of the school's staff on the board: Miss Malarkey, Principal Wiggins, cafeteria-lady Mrs. Slopdown, art teacher Mrs. Magenta, gym teacher Mr. Fittanuff. How did these people get their names? Ask the children to make up other names that have something to do with someone's job or other characteristics.
5. Ask the children to imagine something else that can happen in a school to make the grown-ups anxious. Let the children form small groups and discuss their ideas. After this brainstorming, let them act out skits. Write stories, draw pictures, write articles for a class newspaper describing these events.

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