

The Three Questions

K-4

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Spoken Arts Video 9690

Running Time: 11 minutes

Story Summary

When young Nikolai seeks council from Leo, the wise old turtle who lives in the mountains, he is sure Leo will know the answers to his three questions. But, it is Nikolai's own response to a stranger's cry for help that leads him directly to the answers he is looking for.

Objectives

Children will put into a sequence certain events, which happened in their own lives.

Children will be able to compare and contrast different aspects of a character's personality.

Children will be able to write a creative story with themes similar to the ones they have just learned about.

Questions to ask before viewing the video

1. If you could ask the smartest person in the world just one question, what would you ask?
2. What do you think is the right thing to do?

Questions to ask after viewing the video

1. Although Nikolai loved his friends, why was he not satisfied with their answers to his questions?
2. Why did he think Leo would have the answers he was looking for?
3. When Nikolai asked Leo his questions, Leo only listened, but did not answer him, only smiled. Why?
4. Why did Nikolai stay to help Leo in his garden?
5. Why was the panda and her child put into the story?
6. What was the mother panda's first thought after being rescued, when she was able to speak again?
7. What are some words you would use to describe Nikolai after he saved the panda and her child?

Activities

1. Draw a line down the middle of the board. Ask the children to help you list words on the left side of the line, which described Nikolai before he saved the panda. On the right side, list words which describe him after saving the panda and her child. Using the words from the lists, ask the children to write a different story showing how another character can change after certain events happen.
2. Ask the children to think of something really important they have learned in their lives, something which has changed them and made them grow as a person. Fold a large piece of art paper into fourths and have them illustrate the steps leading up to and including this experience. Cut the pictures out and have them put the pictures in the order in which the events happened, showing the sequence of the events, making a picture strip.
3. For more advanced students, have them research the writer, Tolstoy. Read his version of "The Three Questions" and compare the characters from this story with the ones in Tolstoy's story.

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