

SNICKEYFRITZ

by Andrea Skyberg

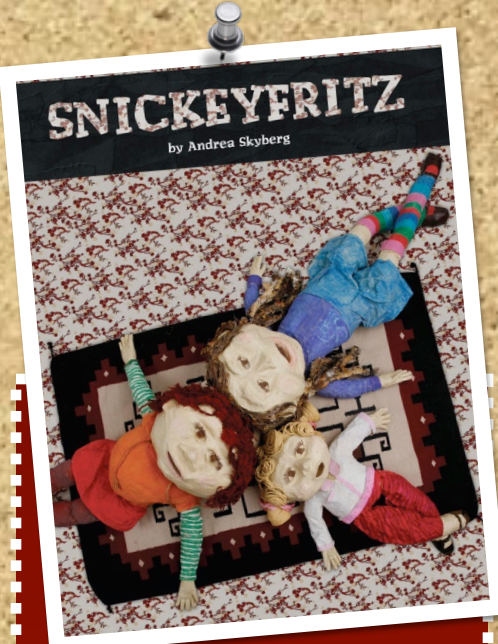


THE SNICKEYFRITZ TEACHER'S GUIDE

A KIT FOR CURING BOREDOM

Intermediate Version

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About the Book

Snickeyfritz tells the tale of three little girls who are stuck inside the house on a rainy afternoon. After complaining of boredom, their Papa sends them on a clever little treasure hunt. Along the way the girls learn to entertain themselves by using their imaginations as they search for the strange and mysterious items on the list. *Snickeyfritz* is the only picture book to use life-size dolls sculpted out of masking tape and then photographed in artistic environments. The characters come to life through the intricate web of nostalgic and contemporary language laced throughout the story.

Audience

- Teachers
- PTA
- Librarians
- Intermediate Students (3-6th Grade)
- ESL (English as a second language)

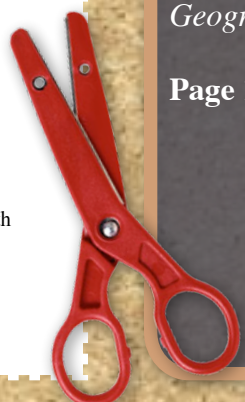


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ARTS HISTORY/ GEOGRAPHY: *Searching the World Over*

THE PERFECT MATCH

Locate the following objects in the book and match with their place of origin and function

1. This wooden mask from Mexico is a folk art collectible and is significant of the Mexican culture, rituals and beliefs.
2. A traditional appliqué cloth from The Republic of Benin (a small country in Africa), this wall hanging is used to represent cultural symbols and stories.
3. Most likely a representation of Paul Bunyan, this folk art doll from Minnesota is considered a souvenir doll representing an important figure of that region.
4. Uli Uli's are Hawaiian rattles used to create music and vibrant aesthetics during the Hula dance.

For large versions of the above images, please see the final pages of the teaching guide.

A.



B.



ANSWERS:

1. IMAGE B
2. IMAGE D

3. IMAGE A
4. IMAGE C

ARTS HISTORY/ GEOGRAPHY: *Searching the World Over*

African Art: Traditional Benin Appliqué Cloth



APPLIQUE WALL HANGING ART PROJECT

Emulate African fabric designs by collaging different colors of construction paper onto a black paper surface to form a vibrant mural.



DIRECTIONS

1. Sketch out with chalk on your black piece of paper a design you wish to create for your mural. You can include animals, objects and symbols.
2. Cut out various shapes from the colored construction paper.
3. On your large piece of black paper glue the colored construction paper shapes down to form your design.

This is a great project to do as a class, working together to create a large mural for a wall in the classroom.

Materials needed: Multiple colored construction paper, large sheet of black paper, scissors, and glue.

Time needed: 2-4 hours depending on the number of students working together on the project. This project can be broken into a number of days and sessions.

HISTORY

Appliqué involves stitching colorful layers of cloth to portray dramatic images of African scenes and the royal symbols from the ancient kingdom of Abomey.

The introduction of this art occurred between 1708- 1740.



Today appliqué cloth is still created and sold in the country, by cooperative groups such as Artisanale, which works and sells within the grounds of the National Museum at Abomey.

ARTS HISTORY/ GEOGRAPHY:

Searching the World Over

Pacific Islander Art:



ULI ULI ART PROJECT

Using paper towel rolls and paper plates, create a rattle and fill it with seeds, pasta or dried vegetables and then decorate it with paint and feathers.

HISTORY

Vibrant colored feather gourd rattles used in Hawaiian hula add music and aesthetics to the dance. The uli uli are the most essential, versatile, and recognizable of all hula implements. They can be used singly or in pairs, by both women and men. Gourds are hollowed out from the la'amea tree and ali'i poe seeds are put inside to give this instrument a distinctive hula rattle.

Materials needed: Paper plates, paper towel rolls, masking tape, napkins, feathers, stapler, glue, paint, seeds, pasta or dried vegetables.

Time needed: 1-2 hours depending on age and skill level

DIRECTIONS

1. To begin fill two plates with seeds, pasta or dried vegetables and then staple the top plate to the bottom plate, leaving about an 1-2" gap where you will stick the paper towel roll.

2. After placing the roll in between the two plates, close the gap by stapling.

3. Fill the paper towel roll with scrunched up napkins or paper towel to give it form, then staple the bottom shut. Use masking tape to tape over staples on the handle, to avoid cuts when using the Uli Uli.

4. Paint the entire object. If you want to avoid using paint, use colored paper plates instead.

5. After the paint dries, attach feathers to the diameter of the plates by sticking them in between the two plates and the staples. Also glue feathers to the center of the plates.

6. Decorate the handle and remaining surfaces of the plates.



ARTS HISTORY/ GEOGRAPHY:

Searching the World Over

Mexican Art: Hand-



MEXICAN MASK ART PROJECT

Create a Mexican Mask with paper plates and paints

Materials needed: Paper plates, paint, tape, stapler, yarn, and markers

Time needed: 1-2 hours depending on age and skill level

HISTORY

In Mexico, masks are used as part of the tradition of the village festival. In recent Mexican masks have become popular folk art collectibles. Even today, masks remain pervasive and significant in Mexican culture. The mask becomes a powerful connection to transformation and ritual, and reveals a whole universe of beliefs.



DIRECTIONS

1. Start by drawing out your design on your paper plate. Then cut out your pattern.
2. Add angle wings by using an additional paper plate and cutting it in half and attaching them to the main plate with staples.
3. To cover the staples, lay masking tape over them, this also helps secure the wings to the body of the figure.
4. After cutting out the initial outline, use a black marker

5. Decorate the mask by painting in the outlines with vibrant colors.
6. After your mask dries, use yarn to create a hanger on the back of your mask so that it can be displayed on a wall.



ARTS HISTORY/ GEOGRAPHY:

Searching the World Over

Folk Art: Paul Bunyan (A Minnesota knitted hand craft)



HAND CRAFTS ART PROJECT

Using an old knitted sweater, create a handcrafted doll in the style of this Minnesota folk art.



DIRECTIONS

1. Begin by drawing a pattern for the doll on a piece of paper and then cut it out.
2. Pin the pattern onto your sweater and begin to cut out the shape, creating two identical pieces of material.
3. Using yarn and a dull yarn needle sew together the two sides of the material, leaving a small opening on the side.
4. Stuff the character with polyester filling and then sew the small opening closed.
5. Decorate the outside of the doll, creating hair, facial features and clothing.

HISTORY

Folk art is primarily utilitarian and decorative rather than purely aesthetic.

Dolls have captivated the human imagination for centuries and have been constructed out of virtually

every material known to human-kind including bone, ivory, metal, wood, plastic, rubber, old and fabric. Souvenir dolls are created by virtually all cultures as a means of representing a particular people. This doll is most likely a representation of Paul Bunyan.



Materials needed: Paper, old sweaters, polyester filling, yarn, dull needles, fabric glue or hot glue gun, decorations such as sequins, buttons, zippers, etc...

Time needed: 1-2 hours depending on age and skill level

VOCABULARY: *In Plain Language*

Fun & Games

IDIOM Activities

Idioms are an expression whose meanings cannot be understood from the literal meanings of the words that make it up, but instead refers to an abstract meaning that is known only through common use.

Be Quick on the Draw

Select idioms and write them down on separate slips of paper. Have each student pick one out of a basket and then illustrate it. Display all of the illustrations on a board with a corresponding number for each image. Type the list of the idioms onto a piece of paper and hand it out to the students instructing them to match up which idiom belongs with each picture.

Get Into the Act

Place selected idioms on index cards and have each student pick a card and read it secretly. They then act out the idiom while the other students guess what idiom expression it is. This can be played with two teams.

SOME IDIOMS USED IN THE BOOK

Up a creek without a paddle, Bouncing off the walls, Hungry enough to eat a horse, Knee-high to a grasshopper, Living the life of Riley, Not for all the tea in china, See you in the funny papers, Suit a king, Heavens to Betsy, Silly goose, Sweet pea, Just in the nick of time, The cat's meow, Rack their brain

Easy as pie

SIMILE Activity

A simile is a figure of speech that articulates a resemblance between things of different kinds and usually formed with 'like' or 'as'.

Pretty as a Picture

Students will draw a self portrait and write a few sentences describing themselves using descriptive language and similes. The teacher will collect all of the assignments and will then read the statements out loud as the students try to guess who in the class the statement is referring to.

SOME SIMILES USED IN THE BOOK

Full as a tick on a dog, Acting like a bull in a china cabinet

You're Talking Gibberish

WORD CREATION

Slang is the use of highly informal words and expressions that are not considered standard in the speaker's dialect.

Slang It To Me

Examine common slang words used in everyday life and discuss when and where it is appropriate to use slang words. Then create new slang words that express feelings or describe objects and write them on a slang wall.

Have each student pick three of the words or phrases from the board that are not their own, and then ask them to use them in a sentence and share with the class.

SOME OF THE MADE-UP PHRASES

& WORDS USED IN THE BOOK

Scuttlebuzzers & Anklesnippers, Noodle it out, Kiddo, Ragadoodle and Snickeyfritz

ARTS & CRAFTS: *A Work of Art*

This is a two part activity that allows students to create an original Ragadoodle (small doll). To begin, create a treasure hunt list with the following descriptions.

Children need to locate the following objects ...

1. One oblong or circular shaped object the size of a golf ball (head)
2. One oblong or circular shaped object the size of an egg (body)
3. Two circular objects the size of a thumb tack (eyes)
4. One cone-like oblong object the size of a thumb tack (nose)
5. Four stick like objects (arms & legs)
6. String like substance (hair)

This list should be photocopied and handed out to each student. Instruct them to go home and locate objects that match the descriptions. Explain that the objects are better suited for the project if they are textural as well as sentimental or symbolic. For instance, if a student

loves to paint, he or she might consider using paint brushes for #5. Give students a restricted time period to locate and bring in their objects. At which time, each student will work with the teacher to attach the objects together using a hot glue gun. After the Ragadoodle is assembled have decorative materials on hand

such as fabric, buttons, ribbon, markers, and paint so that the students can add more detail and clothing to their dolls.

Activity 1: HUNT DOWN THE CLUES TO CREATE A RAGADOODLE

Materials needed: Hot glue gun, glue sticks, scissors fabric, trims, buttons and ribbon, paint, and markers.

Time needed for assembly and decoration: 1-3 hours depending on age and skill level

Children need to locate the following objects ...

1. One oblong or circular shaped object the size of a golf ball (head)
2. One oblong or circular shaped object the size of an egg (body)
3. Two circular objects the size of a thumb tack (eyes)
4. One cone-like oblong object the size of a thumb tack (nose)
5. Four stick like objects (arms & legs)
6. String like substance (hair)

ARTS & CRAFTS: *A Work of Art*

Activity 2: HOME SWEET HOME FOR YOUR RAGADOODLE

Create a dollhouse for your Ragadoodle out of a large box, about the size of a shoe box.

Cut windows in the box and create a door. Use patterned paper to add wallpaper and fabric to make curtains. Find old remnants of carpet or linoleum for the flooring

Materials needed: Hot glue gun, glue sticks, scissors patterned paper, carpet remnants, linoleum remnants, fabric, trims, buttons and ribbon, paint, and markers.

Time needed for assembly and decoration: 1-3 hours depending on age and skill level



Activity 3: LIGHTS, CAMERA, ACTION (Some ideas for advance students)

Mimic the style of *Snickeyfritz* by having students use their own toys & dolls to set scenes and take photographs. In the end they will use their images and a written story to create their own book.

1. Begin by having the students write a short story that involves their dolls or toys. You may need to help them get started by explaining various styles of storytelling such as; drama, suspense, action or comedy. The story should be no more than one-page in length and have a beginning, middle and end.

2. Next have the students create storyboards, which will help them visualize what the set needs to look like and how to position their toys for a shot.

3. Hand out disposable cameras to the students and instruct them to photograph the scenes at home, using up all of the film. A deadline should be set to have the camera return. Upon its return have all the photographs printed.

4. Then working in small groups or together as a class, decide what images work best with the written text. After images have been selected, have each student work on laying the text and image to fit on a page, creating an aesthetically pleasing composition.

5. After completing all pages, bind them together to form a small book.

Materials needed: Glue sticks, paper, scissors, markers, disposable cameras, binding materials such as staples, coils or thread.

Time needed for assembly and decoration: 1-2 weeks or both in class and homework. Exact hours vary depending on age and skill level



FAMILY HISTORY: *All in the Family*

Family Stories

Have your students learn more about their family by writing and illustrating a book about and with their family members.

Materials needed:

Glue sticks, scissors paper, journal or photo album, photo corners, stickers & trim

This project should be worked on over the course of a few weeks to give each student an opportunity to talk with their grandparents, parents, siblings, aunts, uncles and cousins.

To create this book students will be collecting information such as family nicknames or expressions, letters and correspondence between family members, photos of their family and events, and finally their own personal drawings and portraits.

Develop questions as a class to help ignite a conversation with members of the students' families or use some of the ones provided here.

Questions can be broad or center on a certain topic, such as family recipes, family sayings or family nicknames. It could also focus around the past history of family members and who they were and what they were doing when they were the age of the student.

After an allocated amount of time request that all materials be brought in to be collaged into a small family album.

This project will be sure stir conversations, bring back old memories and be a rich experience as well as a sentimental keepsake for the entire family.

Q. WHAT WOULD BE THE MOST MEMORABLE DAY OF YOUR LIFE?

Q. IF YOU COULD HAVE BEEN PRESENT DURING ONE MOMENT IN YOUR FAMILY'S HISTORY, WHAT WOULD IT BE?

Q. WHAT WOULD BE ONE NOSTALGIC SMELL OR SCENT THAT CAUSES YOU TO REMEMBER EXPERIENCES IN YOUR PAST?

Q. IF YOU COULD TRAVEL ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD RIGHT NOW, WHERE WOULD YOU GO?

Q. WHAT IS YOUR PARENTS GREATEST ATTRIBUTE?

Q. WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO FIND IN YOUR FAMILY'S ATTIC, OTHER THAN MONEY?

Q. WHAT WOULD YOU RENAME YOUR HOME TOWN IF YOU COULD?

Q. WHAT IS THE ONE LESSON IN LIFE YOU WOULD LIKE TO TEACH YOUR CHILDREN?

Q. WHAT DO YOU THINK IS THE MOST IMPORTANT QUALITY IN A FRIEND?

Q. WHO WOULD YOU SAY HAS BEEN THE MOST IMPORTANT ROLE MODEL IN YOUR LIFE SO FAR?

Q. IF YOU WOULD HAVE TO SAY ONE THING THAT HAS CHANGED MOST IN THE WORLD SINCE YOU WERE A CHILD, WHAT WOULD IT BE?

Q. IF YOU COULD GO BACK AND RE-VISIT ONE PLACE YOU HAVE BEEN IN YOUR LIFE, WHERE WOULD IT BE?



African Art: Traditional Benin Appliqué Cloth



Pacific Islander Art: Hawaiian Uli Uli's



Mexican Art: Hand-Carved Angel Mask



Folk Art: Paul Bunyan (A Minnesota knitted hand craft)



Andrea Skyberg visits schools regularly, providing all-school assemblies, writer workshops, art workshops, and art residencies. Her programs reinforces and supports the curriculums of language arts, visual arts, art history and geography. To find out more information, please visit www.AndreaSkyberg.com

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The Snickeyfritz Teachers Guide Primary Version

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