



#10064 HAPPY BIRTHDAY, MOON

WESTON WOODS STUDIOS, 1985
Grade Level: Ps-1
7 mins.

DESCRIPTION

Bear wants to give Moon a birthday present, so he travels to a mountain top to talk to it. An echo off the mountain causes him to think Moon is responding. Bear buys a beautiful hat as a gift, and when it is lost, Bear affirms his love for Moon. Animated version of the story by Frank Asch.



ACADEMIC STANDARDS

Subject Area: Health

- Standard: Understands the relationship of family health to individual health
 - ◆ Benchmark: Knows characteristics needed to be a responsible friend and family member (e.g., participating in family activities, assuming more responsibility for household tasks) (See INSTRUCTIONAL GOALS 1.)

Subject Area: Language Arts - Reading

- Standard: Uses reading skills and strategies to understand and interpret a variety of literary texts
 - ◆ Benchmark: Uses reading skills and strategies to understand a variety of familiar literary passages and texts (e.g., fairy tales, folktales, fiction, nonfiction, legends, fables, myths, poems, nursery rhymes, picture books, predictable books) (See INSTRUCTIONAL GOALS 3.)

INSTRUCTIONAL GOALS

1. To explore friendships and the act of giving.
2. To introduce the effect of an echo.
3. To promote the reading of children's literature.

VOCABULARY

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| 1. bear | 8. hear |
| 2. birthday | 9. lost |
| 3. chat | 10. moon |
| 4. closer | 11. present |
| 5. echo | 12. sky |
| 6. far | 13. still (nevertheless) |
| 7. hat | 14. tomorrow |

BEFORE SHOWING

1. Discuss echoes. Describe how an echo happens. Explain how an echo sounds. Clarify that echoes are real.
2. Read *Happy Birthday, Moon* by Frank Asch. Emphasize that Bear hears his own voice as an echo; it's not the moon talking. Clarify how the moon "finds" the hat in the tree.
3. Discuss birthdays, presents, and giving.
 - a. What do you like most about your birthday?
 - b. What do you like about other people's birthdays?
 - c. What are your favorite birthday presents?
 - d. Who gave you your favorite birthday presents? Do those people know important things about you?
4. Discuss times you have seen the moon. What did it look like? What shape was it? How far away did you think it was? Could you get closer to the moon while staying on earth?

AFTER SHOWING

Discussion Items and Questions

1. What did Bear want to do for the moon? What two things did Bear need to know before he could give the moon a birthday present?
2. Why did Bear climb a tree? Why didn't the moon talk to Bear? How did Bear feel when the moon didn't talk to him?
3. Why did Bear go to the mountains?
4. Explain what happened when Bear talked to the moon from the mountains.
 - a. Whose voice did Bear really hear?
 - b. When did Bear think it would be the moon's birthday? Why?
 - c. What did Bear think the moon wanted for its birthday? Why?
5. What did Bear do when he got back home?
6. Why did Bear put the hat in the tree?
7. Explain how the moon "found" the hat.
8. Where did Bear find the hat in the morning? How did it get there? What did Bear think had happened?
9. What did the wind do to the hat?
10. Why did Bear go back to the mountains? What did he tell the moon? Was he mad that the moon had lost the hat? How did Bear feel about the moon?

Applications and Activities

1. Discuss friendships.
 - a. Why does Bear consider the moon to be a good friend? (Consider that Bear believes he and the moon have many things in common.)
 - b. What things do you have in common with your friends? Consider shared interests, laughing about the same things, and feeling sad about the same things.
 - c. What does Bear do that shows he is a good friend to the moon?
2. Write about what birthday presents you would give the moon. Illustrate your ideas. Post the pictures and stories or create a class book.
3. Experiment with echoes. (Consider that most deaf and hard of hearing students may be unable to hear echoes.)
 - a. Try calling out in a hallway or gymnasium with all of the doors closed.
 - b. Try calling out while outdoors.
 - c. Discuss why echoes can be heard some places and not others.
4. Investigate the movements of the earth and moon. Explain why the moon appears to rise and set. Find the distance from the earth to the moon. Compare that to known distances.
5. Practice giving and receiving gifts. Exchange names between class members. Discuss the importance of giving something the other person will want. Make and exchange gifts.
6. Write a letter to a friend. Explain why you enjoy having that person for a friend. Tell about things you hope to do together. Younger students can dictate to older students.
7. Have a Hat Day. Bring favorite hats from home to wear, or make a variety of hats from different materials.

SUMMARY

Happy Birthday, Moon is the charming story about a bear who wants to give the moon a birthday present. The bear decides to ask the moon what it would like for a present and goes up into the mountains to get close to it. When the bear says "Hello" to the moon, his voice echoes back "Hello." Of course, the bear thinks the response is coming from the moon. Because of the echo, everything the bear says is repeated back to him, with the bear thinking, in each case, that the response is coming from the moon.

Since the bear wants a hat for his birthday, he hears the moon say that it too wants a hat. The bear leaves one in a tree top for the moon. As the moon appears to creep up through the branches of the tree, it actually appears to be wearing the hat left by the bear. The bear sees this and is very pleased.

The next morning, the hat falls out of the tree and onto the bear's doorstep. The bear believes that the moon has left it there as a present for him. The wind blows the hat away, the bear chases it, and, when he can't find it, decides to go to the mountains and talk with the moon. The end of the story finds the bear telling the moon "I still love you" and "Happy Birthday" and the moon, of course, responds in kind.

CMP RELATED RESOURCES

- *Danny and the Dinosaur* #10055
- *Here Comes the Cat!* #3042
- *Monty* #3271

World Wide Web



The following Web sites complement the contents of this guide; they were selected by professionals who have experience in teaching deaf and hard of hearing students. Every effort was made to select accurate, educationally relevant, and “kid safe” sites. However, teachers should preview them before use. The U.S. Department of Education, the National Association of the Deaf, and the Captioned Media Program do not endorse the sites and are not responsible for their content.

• FRANK ASCH CHILDREN’S BOOKS

<http://www.frankasch.com/home.html>

Frank Asch’s Web site contains biographical information, a complete list of his books, a kids’ section with a game and a child’s interview with the author, a teacher section with lesson plans submitted by teachers for many of his books, a Flash version of a Moonbear movie, and a “What’s New” section for current news.

• SCHOOL OF CHAMPIONS–ECHOES

<http://www.school-for-champions.com/science/echoes.htm>

This Web site has a fairly simple explanation of echoes written for upper elementary or middle school-age students. It includes a Flash animation of a person hearing an echo off of a wall. It also includes ways that echoes are used, such as with sonar and by bats for locating food.

• FRIENDSHIP

<http://olc.spsd.sk.ca/DE/resources/friendship%20unit/>

This site from a school district in Canada provides a 42-page unit plan on friendship using children’s literature. It contains activities for reading, writing, speaking, listening, the arts, math, and social studies and covers making friends and friendly behavior, difficulties in friendships, mixed-gender friendships, and intergenerational friendships, interracial and cross cultural friendships, imaginary friends, and loss of a friend.