



#10074
MISS NELSON
HAS A FIELD DAY

WESTON WOODS STUDIOS, 1999
Grade Level: K-5
13 mins.

DESCRIPTION

The Smedley Tornados are a pitiful, undisciplined, losing football team . . . until the notorious Viola Swamp appears! The world's meanest substitute teacher soon whips the team into shape for the big game. Animated version of the award-winning book by Henry Allard.

ACADEMIC STANDARDS

Subject Area: Physical Education

- Standard: Understands the social and personal responsibility associated with participation in physical activity
 - ◆ Benchmark: Understands the social contributions of physical activity (e.g., learning to cooperate and interact with others, having a role in team sports) (See INSTRUCTIONAL GOALS 1.)

Subject Area: Behavioral Studies

- Standard: Understands that interactions among learning, inheritance, and physical development affect human behavior
 - ◆ Benchmark: Understands that practice helps people to improve, and that how well a person learns sometimes depends on how she or he does it as well as how often and how hard she or he tries to learn (See INSTRUCTIONAL GOALS 2 and 3.)

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 4.)

INSTRUCTIONAL GOALS

1. To learn about the importance of hard work and team effort.
2. To discover problem-solving techniques.
3. To explore the benefits of perseverance and a positive attitude.
4. To promote the reading of children's literature.

VOCABULARY

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|--------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. coach | 8. lose |
| 2. expert | 9. make mincemeat |
| 3. field | 10. practice |
| 4. football | 11. rest |
| 5. get results | 12. substitute |
| 6. give him the business | 13. team |
| 7. gloom | 14. witch |

BEFORE SHOWING

1. Read the book *Miss Nelson Has a Field Day* by Harry Allard.
2. Discuss winning and losing in sports.
 - a. How does it feel to win? To lose?
 - b. What makes a good team player?
 - c. How does it feel to work together with others to achieve something?
 - d. How do you feel before a game? After a game?
 - e. What might you tell a friend who is about to play an important game?

AFTER SHOWING

Discussion Items and Questions

1. What was making the children and staff at Horace B. Smedley School so sad?
2. What was happening at football practice? Why?
3. What happened to Coach Armstrong?
4. What did Miss Nelson overhear when she passed by Lulu's? Who else heard the kids talking?
5. What did Miss Nelson decide to do to try to solve the team's problem? Who did she make an important phone call to?
6. Describe what happened when Mr. Blandsworth tried to impersonate Viola Swamp.
7. Who did the children think was the new coach? How did Coach Swamp improve the team?
8. What happened when Mr. Blandsworth went to ask Miss Nelson who Coach Swamp was? What did the viewer find out from this scene and the very next scene?
9. How did Coach Armstrong feel when he returned to football practice? Who was watching from the school?
10. What happened at the big football game on Thanksgiving Day?

11. Who did the coach turn out to be at the end of the story? Who filled in for Miss Nelson at school? Did you think Miss Nelson and her sister were twins?

Applications and Activities

1. Discuss how Miss Nelson behaved when she disguised herself as Coach Swamp. Include discussions about body language and facial expressions. Practice showing emotions.
 - a. Make paper plate masks with a happy face on one side and a mean face on the other side.
 - b. Wear the happy face masks and demonstrate some basic body movements and activities that show what you do when you are happy.
 - c. Wear the mean face masks and demonstrate the movements and activities that might accompany this emotion.
2. Review the way Miss Nelson solved the problem in the story. Present several hypothetical problems. Explore problem-solving strategies to find solutions.
3. Attend a sporting event. Watch for ways that the players demonstrate sportsmanship, how they work as a team, and how discipline and hard work help them to achieve their goals.
4. Teach a new PE or art skill. While learning the skill, remember that there are different things people do to learn new skills. Discuss the value of practice, attitude, and patience.
5. Practice teamwork. Divide into small groups to plan a party. Each team plans one part of the party (i.e., food, games, or decorations). All the teams work together to hold the party.
6. Read other books about Miss Nelson by Harry Allard (*Miss Nelson is Back* and *Miss Nelson is Missing!*). Compare and contrast the stories.

SUMMARY

Nothing seems to help the hapless football team at the Horace B. Smedley School--not the depressed Mr. Blandsworth or the ineffective Coach Armstrong. Everyone is down in the dumps until the arrival of the notorious Viola Swamp who takes it upon herself to whip the team into shape for the big Thanksgiving game. Do the Smedley Tornados dare lose again?



CMP RELATED RESOURCES

- [Miss Nelson is Back #10075](#)
- [The Teacher From the Black Lagoon #10100](#)
- [The Clown of God #10091](#)

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.

- **TEACHERVIEWS: *MISS NELSON HAS A FIELD DAY***



http://www.eduplace.com/tview/pages/m/Miss_Nelson_Has_a_Field_Day_Harry_Allard.html

Here is a short lesson plan with activity and language ideas.

- **PE CENTRAL: BEST PRACTICES**



<http://www.pecentral.org/bp/indivBPDisplay.asp?ID=180&votes=11>

This is a single lesson plan for any elementary classroom, reinforcing the concepts of teamwork and sportsmanship.