



#3677

THE VALIANT LITTLE TAILOR

Grade Levels: 4-8

25 minutes

AMBROSE VIDEO PUBLISHING 1995

DESCRIPTION

A Nigerian version of the Grimm's fairy tale. Bongo, a short tailor in a land of tall people, kills seven flies with one blow. He is so pleased with himself, he sets out to seek his fortune. Using his wits, honesty, and confidence, he defeats a giant, outsmarts the king, and wins the hand of the princess. Narrated by Robert Guillaume.

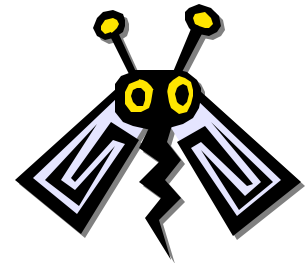
ACADEMIC STANDARDS

Subject Area: History

- ◆ Standard: Understands family life now and in the past, and family life in various places long ago
 - Benchmark: Understands personal family or cultural heritage through stories, songs, and celebrations
 - Benchmark: Knows ways in which people share family beliefs and values (e.g., oral traditions, literature, songs, art, religion, community celebrations, mementos, food, language)

INSTRUCTIONAL GOALS

1. To allow students of all ethnic backgrounds to see their own culture reflected in the telling of Western fairy tales.
2. To introduce students to cultures around the world.
3. To promote storytelling and creative writing among young students.
4. To reinforce an understanding of universal lessons.



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Before you watch, ask students to choose between a big box and a small box without knowing anything about the contents. Have them explain their choices. After you watch, create a class list of words to describe Bongo: what he looks like, how he acts, what he accomplished. Brainstorm a list of good things that are small and have individuals draw items on their own lists. Have students share pictures and tell why the size of something or someone is not important. Display pictures along with the student's statements about small things.

2. Talk about the lessons learned from fairy tales—keeping promises, minding your parents, telling the truth. As you watch, have students listen for the lesson of The Valiant Little Tailor. After you watch, write the “moral” in the video and discuss its meaning, “Never judge by appearance, for, like the human heart, the greatest wonders can be found in the smallest of packages.” Have students tell something they have done that is kind, brave or good, even though they are small. (See “Design Awards” below.)
3. Create a class list of “size” words from the video. Ask students if someone ever used a size word that made him or her feel bad. Help students role-play appropriate behavior for responding to someone who says something they don’t like.

4. Design Awards

Note: Gather glitter, yarn, markers and construction paper.

Before you watch, ask students to describe a hero and look for the heroic deeds in the tale. After you watch, have each student tell something he or she has done that is kind, brave or good. Have them use construction paper to design a belt, hat or other accessory to wear to tell others about their feat.

5. Compare Cultures

Note: Groups of students will need large sheets of paper and may watch portions of the video more than once.

As you watch, have students look for differences between the time and setting of the story and their own lifestyle—clothing, food, homes, furniture, jobs, animals, transportation, shopping. After you watch, discuss the similarities and differences they found. Divide the students into small groups. Have each group take one topic and draw comparisons on a large sheet of paper. Have groups share their drawings.

Going further: (Have a map and pictures from northern Nigeria available—the people, a marketplace, foods, an African rain forest, and animals of the region such as a rhinoceros, warthogs, horses, apes, spiders.)

Have students review their comparisons and predict what differences are due to culture and which differences are due to the time period the story might have taken place. Use current pictures of northern Nigeria to test students’ predictions.

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SUMMARY

The Western version of this tale was originally a Brothers Grimm story. A little man, who worked as a tailor, once killed seven flies with one blow. He was so pleased with himself that he embroidered “Seven With One Blow” on his belt and set out to seek his

fortune. With quick wit, honesty and confidence, the valiant little tailor bested a giant, won the hand of a princess and overpowered his adversaries.

This Happily Ever After: Fairy Tales for Every Child version of The Valiant Little Tailor is set in the woodland region of northern Nigeria. Nigeria is an African country of 250 ethnic groups. One of the dominant groups in northern Nigeria is the Hausa-Fulani, typified by the royal class in the tale. Nigeria is known for its wonderfully exhilarating music. The people speak of anyone with close ties as “brother” and are very respectful of their elders.



The cultural setting transforms the tale in several ways:

- The little tailor works in a clothing shop in a marketplace bazaar.
- An old woman peddles breakfast pies door to door.
- The tailor frees a bird from the enormous web of a spider found in Nigeria’s rain forest regions.
- The Hausa are usually taller than the southern ethnic groups.
- The theme music is stimulating and exciting.
- The names of the tailor, princess and king are indicative of the region.
- The animals throughout the story are native to this region.

RELATED RESOURCES

Captioned Media Program

- The Emperor’s New Clothes #3603
- The Frog Prince #3610
- Great Snake #2664
- Little Red Riding Hood #3629



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.

- **THE BROTHERS GRIMM**

<http://www.cs.cmu.edu/~spok/grimtmp/>

Fairy tales online. No frills, just 207 stories in narrative form. Cinderella, Rumpelstiltskin, and other classics.

- **CHARACTER BUILDING**

<http://www.pbs.org/adventures/>

From the "Book of Virtues" site by PBS which accompanies the winning series. Covers honesty, kindness, compassion, and more with the familiar characters Annie and Zach. Teacher pages, parent info, a store, and the usual menu items from a video/TV production site.

- **ONGOING TALES**

<http://www.teleport.com/~writers/kidserials.html>

Many of the classics online from Antelope Publishing. Jack and the Beanstalk, Cinderella, Rumpelstiltskin, Beauty and the Beast, and others, along with poems and other surprises.

- **HIYAH.COM LIBRARY**

<http://www.hiyah.com/library.html>

Nicely done rendition of the classic Beauty and the Beast tale. Uses Shockwave.

- **THE CHILDREN'S STORY SITE**

<http://www.childrenstory.com/>

A great place for kids to publish their own folk and fairy tales. Also offers interactive tales, some read-alouds (for hard of hearing kids), with other creative surprises.