

MULTICULTURAL BOOK REVIEW

Chicken Sunday
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Introduction (Summary)

Chicken Sunday is a multicultural story about three children who want more than anything to buy Miss Eula an Easter hat that she has been admiring in Mr. Kodinski's hat store for some time. The children want to show Miss Eula how much they appreciate the delicious fried chicken she makes for them every Sunday. They have been saving their money for weeks now but will not have enough money to buy the hat before Easter. They decide to go to Mr. Kodinski's store and ask him if they could sweep up his shop to earn the rest of the money. As they passed through the back alley of the store some older kids came running through and threw eggs at Mr. Kodinski's store then ran off. Mr. Kodinski opens the door and saw the three children standing there and believed they were responsible for throwing the eggs. He called Miss Eula and told her what the children had done. The children could not tell Miss Eula why they were at the store because they wanted the hat to be a surprise so they instead had to figure out a way to show Mr. Kodinski that they did not throw the eggs. They decided to make him some Pysanky eggs as something special that would remind him of his culture. He loved them and told the children that they could sell the eggs in his hat store to make money. They sold all the eggs in one day. The children now had enough money to buy Miss Eula the beautiful Easter hat. Mr. Kodinski knew the reason the children were working so hard was to buy the Easter hat for Miss Eula so he told the children they could keep their money and gave them the Easter hat for free. Miss Eula was delighted when the children gave her the hat she had admired for so long and the children were proud of themselves for their hard work.

Phase 1 – Descriptive Phase

1. Who are the characters in the story?
2. Where does the story take place?
3. Why is the story called Chicken Sunday?
4. Is Miss Eula the little girl's real grandmother?
5. Why do the children want to buy Miss Eula an Easter hat?
6. Did Mr. Kodinski believe the children when they told him they did not throw eggs at his store?
7. How did Miss Eula feel when she found out about the children throwing eggs at Mr. Kodinski's store?
8. How did the children show Mr. Kodinski that they were not the ones responsible for throwing the eggs?
9. How did Mr. Kodinski react when the children presented him with the Pysanky eggs?

Phase II – Personal Interpretive Phase

1. Have you ever been accused of something that you did not do? How did you deal with the situation?
2. Have you ever saved your money to buy something special for yourself or for someone else?
3. How did you feel when you were able to give something to someone else?

4. Have you ever been able to share something from your culture with someone else (cooking, artwork, special occasion)? Or attended a cultural event with a friend?
5. Do you have people in your life that you love and consider family but who are not related by blood?
6. What does your family like to eat for dinner on Sundays?

Phase III – Critical Analysis Phase

1. Was it fair/valid that Mr. Kodinski accused the children of throwing eggs at his store? Why?
2. When the children made the Pysanky eggs for Mr. Kodinski was that the best way to show him that they did not throw the eggs? Why?
3. Could the children have proven to Mr. Kodinski and Miss Eula in another way that they did not throw the eggs? How?
4. Do you think that the children should have told Miss Eula the reason why they were in the alley of Mr. Kodinski's store? What would have happened if they did?
5. Was it okay that the children lied to Miss Eula about the reason they were in the alley of Mr. Kodinski's store? Is it ever acceptable to lie?

Phase IV – Creative Action Phase

1. Activity: Pretend that you were one of the children accused of throwing eggs at Mr. Kodinski's store. What would you do? Write an essay about it.
2. Activity: Choose a family/person to adopt in the community and have a fundraiser to raise money and buy the family something. Could also choose a name from the community tree at Christmas time.
3. Activity: Decorate some Pysanky eggs for Easter and give them to friends and family to show that you care. Children should be able to explain that the eggs are from a different culture.

Summary

Chicken Sunday is appropriate for K-2 and has beautiful illustrations that are eye catching to children and adults alike. The story is told in simple terms and introduces many important ideas and values such as honesty, caring, family, culture, diversity, problem solving, and good character. This book could be utilized in a thematic unit about spring and the class could decorate eggs. It could also be included in any type of multicultural thematic unit as it deals with a different cultures working together. This is an excellent book that I would highly recommend as it addresses many topics in one simple yet captivating story. The only caution I would mention is that the classroom teacher should be aware that the story includes references to religion. The teacher should be prepared to address questions should they arise and should focus on the things we all have in common while respecting and valuing each other's differences. Overall, this remains an outstanding book!