

Session # 1 The Big Orange Spot

Overview

A witty story of Mr. Plumbean, who lives on a very neat street where all the houses look the same. One day (no one knows why), a seagull drops a can of orange paint on Mr. Plumbean's roof -- and nothing is ever the same for Plumbean or his neighbors.

Goal: Children are reminded, in a funny and entertaining way, of the joys of individuality and self-expression.

Supplies:

Book

Copies of Take Home Page

Do Re Mi Principles as a wall hanging

Supplies for the activities you chose

Décor for the room- Principle and Sources posters in adult language, optional.

Sharing circle supplies –

chalice

candle

match

match holder

snuffer (optional)

polished rocks

bowl of water

decorative tray

Set Up:

Make or copy the Do-Re-Mi Poster

Order a Principles and Sources Poster from the UUA Bookstore with adult language, optional.

Copy the Take Home Page

Entering Activity:

Water Color or Tempera Free Form Painting

Tempera paints (premixed with water) in a variety of colors OR watercolor paint

Sets OR Markers.

Brushes, several in each paint color or cups of water to rinse the watercolor brushes.

Newspapers to cover tables

Heavy white paper or flip chart paper to paint on.

Sponges and paper towels for clean up.

Invite the children to engage in free form painting, in order to embody the feeling of painting that will be read about in the book. Tempera paints require more preparation and clean up, so if that is a concern, use watercolor paint sets or markers.

Sharing Circle:

After the children have arrived, invite them to tidy up and leave their painting activity to gather in a circle around the chalice for the story. Leave the paints set up for the activities following the Sharing Circle.

Chalice Lighting:

Bring out the chalice and candle, matchbook, matchholder, and snuffer. Set out the chalice and the water bowl with rocks to drop in for sharing “Joys and Concerns.”

Invite the children to recite with you the following chalice lighting words:

“To this quiet place of beauty we come from busy things, pausing for a moment for the thoughts that quiet brings.”

Light the match and hold it to the candle wick.

“We light this chalice for the warmth of love, the light of truth and the energy of action.”

Invite the children to share important things that have happened in their lives, passing a talking stick, shell or rock to indicate whose turn it is to share. Have each child share a joy or a concern by dropping a small polished rock into the water bowl.

Say something like: “We will now share our joys and concerns in our sharing circle. Each of us will have a turn to speak while the rest listen. You don’t have to share, you can always say, “pass.”

After everyone has shared who wishes to, add one more rock and say, “For all the joys and concerns which remain unspoken, we add this rock.”

You may prefer to extinguish the chalice flame with the snuffer at this point saying “Though we extinguish this flame, we kindle the flame to carry in our hearts together.”

Read “**The Big Orange Splot.**”

UU Identity teachable moment:

Ask the children for their reflections on the story. Say something like, “Our first principle states that “Each person is worthwhile.” Show them the poster of the Do-Re-Mi Principles with the Principles in children’s language, below. Sing it if you wish. “In this book, Mr. Plumbean makes his house special, and the neighbors don’t like it. But then, they each discover the joy of self-expression. We Unitarian Universalists seek our own way of being in the world. We celebrate our differences. We like to share our differences together. Today, each of us will be able to paint a house, too and we can see how our neighborhood might look.” Describe the activities that you have prepared and invite the children to engage in them.

Activities: Choose from the following options.

1) Design and paint your own house.

Blank white paper

Markers or Paints (Markers will immediately dry and can be hung on the posterboard as the children finish.)

Posterboard

Glue

Invite children to draw or paint their own house. Make sure they put their names on it. Let them know that once the painting is done you will add their drawing to a large piece of posterboard and hang it as a decoration for the room with the title: Our "Picture Book UU" Friends.

2) Take digital or Polaroid pictures for the session on "Our Own Picturebook."

Digital or Polaroid camera

Film or photo developing

Take pictures of the participants and their activities.

3) Make shoebox houses.

Shoebox or other small cardboard boxes.

Tempera paint

Markers

Utility knife for cutting doors and windows.

Invite children to make their own house and paint it to create a "Picture Book" neighborhood. Help them to cut doors and windows in their house.

Closing: Making the "Picture Book UU" friendly neighborhood.

Put all the drawings or box houses into a neighborhood. Say something like:

"Each one of us is unique. We have different ways of expressing ourselves. We put these houses in a friendly neighborhood together to remind ourselves to value differences and to be respectful of our differences."

Take a picture of the Friendly Neighborhood, optional.

Background for Teachers:

Additional idea - One teacher found a simple house outline on the web and made copies for the children to use as a template.

Conclusion

We start the program valuing individual self-expression. To balance this, we create a Friendly Neighborhood which implies living together harmoniously as well. Enjoy this delightful tale together!



Do-Re-Mi UU Principles

(sung to the tune of Do-Re-Mi)

One: Each person is worthwhile.

Two: Be kind in all you do.

Three: We help each other learn.

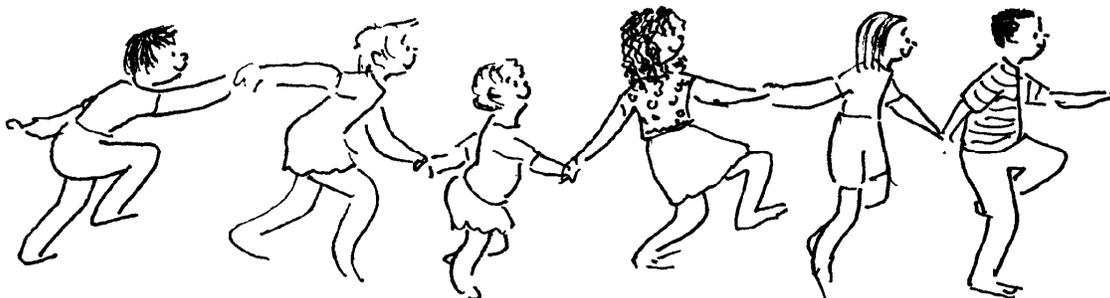
Four: And search for what is true.

Five: All people have a say.

Six: Work for a peaceful world.

Seven: The web of life's the way,
That will bring us back to me and U.U . . .

Do Re Mi Fa So La Ti Do . . . Do . . . Do!





Picture Book UU Identity: The Big Orange Splot

Take Home Page

Today we read, **The Big Orange Splot** by Daniel Manus Pinkwater, a witty story of Mr. Plumbean, who lives on a very neat street where all the houses look the same. One day (no one knows why), a seagull drops a can of orange paint on Mr. Plumbean's roof -- and nothing is ever the same for Plumbean or his neighbors. Children are reminded, in a funny and entertaining way, of the joys of individuality and self-expression.



Picture Book UU Identity: The Big Orange Splot

Take Home Page

Today we read, **The Big Orange Splot** by Daniel Manus Pinkwater, a witty story of Mr. Plumbean, who lives on a very neat street where all the houses look the same. One day (no one knows why), a seagull drops a can of orange paint on Mr. Plumbean's roof -- and nothing is ever the same for Plumbean or his neighbors. Children are reminded, in a funny and entertaining way, of the joys of individuality and self-expression.