

PATRICK

Patrick
by Quentin Blake (Walck)

Themes: Music.Magic

Grade Level: PreK-2

Running Time: 7 minutes, animated

Summary

Patrick is a story told without words of a man who buys a violin from a peddler selling all kinds of wares. This violin proves to be a very special instrument indeed. Each time Patrick plays the violin, wondrous things happen. When Patrick plays by a pond, the fish pop up out of the water displaying rainbow colored bodies. When Patrick plays the instrument in an apple orchard, the trees bloom with colorful fruits, cakes, ice cream, and hot buttered toast!

The story's touching ending occurs when Patrick plays for a sickly tinker and his wife. The violin's music heals the tinker immediately. Patrick, his violin, and the brightly colored animals that Patrick's violin has magically transformed, hop into the tinker's wagon and all happily return to town.

Objectives

- Children will learn to think creatively in order to imagine a more colorful world
- Children will explore the violin
- Children will investigate the colors of nature

Before Viewing Activities

Share the book Patrick with children.

Then ask: If you could change something in the world

into beautiful colors the way Patrick did with his violin, what would it be? Why would this be your choice?

Talk with children about the colors of the things around them. Take a walk outdoors and have children look closely at leaves, grass, twigs, concrete sidewalks and steps, the bricks used on the school building, etc. Encourage children to look for as many colors as they can in each of these objects. Then ask: If you could change these objects into any color(s) you wish, what would they be?

Play some violin music for children. After listening to several pieces, have children try to describe the different sounds the instrument makes and discuss the ways the music makes them feel. If possible, invite a musician or your school's music teacher to your classroom to explore the violin and the music it makes with children.

After Viewing Activities

Provide children with watercolors and brushes. Have them paint pictures of ordinary objects such as houses, trees, flowers, etc. using any and as many colors as they wish. Later, display the paintings on a classroom wall. As children explore the artwork, talk about how they might feel about living in a world where everyday objects were actually the colors in their paintings.

Have children write short stories about extraordinary objects that grow on a very ordinary tree. Offer the following story starter: One day, Michelle sat under a very shady tree to rest. When she looked up she saw ... When finished, allow children to illustrate their stories and display them on a classroom wall or bulletin board.

Try some tie-dying to make a colorful cloth for class-

room use. Supply a white cotton sheet. Have children gather the fabric in various places and twist rubber bands around the gathered bundles of cloth. Fill several aluminum pans with various colors of dye. (Provide rubber gloves that children can wear while dying the cloth.) Have children take turns dampening each small bundle of cloth and dipping the bundle in the dye. When finished, rinse the cloth until the water is clear. Remove the rubber bands and rinse again. Hang the cloth to dry. Later, use your cloth as a backdrop for plays, a special classroom tablecloth, or a colorful blanket children can spread on the classroom floor and sit on as they listen to lovely violin music!

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