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Activity Guide

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Gilberto and the Wind

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ABOUT THE STORY

A young boy is befriended by the wind that then becomes his playmate and helps him fly kites, sail toy boats, and float soap bubbles.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR/ILLUSTRATOR

Marie Hall Ets was born in Wisconsin in 1893. After attending several schools and colleges she worked in a variety of jobs in the health care/social work field. One of the most prolific and respected children's book authors, Ms. Ets received several awards, including the 1947 Children's Book Festival Award for *Oley the Sea Monster* and the Caldecott medal for *Nine Days to Christmas* in 1960. Ms. Ets passed away in 1984.

INTRODUCING THE STORY

Ask the children if they've ever played outside while the wind was blowing very hard. What happened to the things around them that could move? Have you ever played with the wind? How? (kite, toy boats, etc.) Explain that in this book, Gilberto is a young boy who discovers that the wind can be a fun playmate.

READING ACTIVITIES

Comprehension/Thinking Skills

- "What are some of the things that Wind liked to do?"
- "What does the wind sometimes do that makes Gilberto afraid?"
(*Draw Conclusions*)
- "What do Gilberto and Wind do when the wind finally gets tired?"

Vocabulary

Be sure students have an understanding of the following terms. Depending on age, simply discuss the terms, or have children look them up in a dictionary.

whispering	gentle	jerk	clothespins
umbrellas	unlatched	squeak	meadow
pinwheel	whistles	blur	burst
knocking	squeeze	answers	

CROSS-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Language Arts: Clothesline Game

Remind children how Wind enjoyed blowing the wash on the clothesline. Explain that they are going to play a blackboard game called "Clothesline". Draw a straight line across the board, and draw a variety of simple "clothes" hanging from it. Inside each piece of clothing, write a letter sound or consonant blend found in the book. Have children think of words that start with those sounds, and then go up to the board to "blow" it away by erasing it. Repeat with new sounds.

Language Arts: Scrambled Sentences

Select various sentences from the story. Write each word of the sentence onto a separate piece of oak tag or heavy paper. Give a set of scrambled words to each student or pair of students. Have them arrange the words to form a sentence from the story.

Science/Math: Whirling Winds

Bring a fan or two into the classroom. Give students a variety of objects to gently drop in front of the blowing fan (feather, block, paper, shoe, etc). Have them chart how the various objects behave when placed in the "wind".

Arts: Why I Like the Wind

Have each child illustrate a picture of their own that shows something they enjoy doing in the wind. Display pictures around classroom.

INTERNET ACTIVITY

Before you send children to do research using any of the keywords listed below, you may wish to try them yourself to be sure the sites are suitable.

Wind:

Conduct research to discover what causes wind. Why makes wind? What kind of weather is associated with wind? What are heavy windstorms called? Share findings with rest of class.

Marie Hall Ets:

Conduct research on this prolific author. Visit the library and collect other books she has written. What topics does she write about most? Why do you think that is? Write biographies about her and compile into a class book.



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Gilberto Y El Viento

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ABOUT THE STORY

A small boy discovers that the wind is a close friend and playmate who helps to fly kites, sail toy boats, and give rides on a gate.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR / ILLUSTRATOR

One of the most respected and prolific children's book authors and illustrators, Marie Hall Ets has been creating outstanding books for children since 1935. Among her many books are *Another Day*, *Elephant in a Well*, *Play with Me*, and *Nine Days to Christmas* (written with Aurora Labastida), which brought Mrs. Ets the Caldecott Medal.

INTRODUCING THE STORY

Ask children to describe what it is like to be outside when the wind is blowing hard. Ask them if they have ever had fun with the wind, and have them describe what happens to things around them when the wind blows. Explain that this book is about a boy and his special playmate, wind.

(NOTE: Some exercises include words in both Spanish and English, enabling you to present them according to the needs of the group and goals of your lesson.)

READING ACTIVITIES

Comprehension/Thinking Skills

- "What are some ways Gilberto plays with Wind?"
- "Does Gilberto ever get his balloon back? Why or why not?"
- "In what ways is Wind like a person?" (*Compare and contrast*)
- "How might the Wind feel when he is playing with the wheel?
Running in the meadow? Knocking down trees?" (*Make Inferences*)
- "How does Gilberto feel about the Wind?"

Vocabulary

Explain to children that verbs are words that show action. List these verbs on the chalkboard and have children make up a sentence for each verb.

susurra (whispers)	sacude (shakes)
sopla (blows)	eleva (lifts)
corre (runs)	

CROSS-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Art: Make a Wind Pinwheel

For each pinwheel, you will need a square piece of paper, about 6 inches on each side, a new pencil with an eraser, and a stickpin. Have children decorate both sides of the paper. Cut a diagonal line from each corner, stopping before the center. Overlap every other point and stick a pin through all four points and the center of the square. Attach to the pencil by sticking the pin through the pencil eraser. Be sure the pin does not go all the way through the eraser. Children can blow on their pinwheels to make them spin.

Science: Look What the Wind Blew In

Supply a large number of leaves of different shapes, sizes, and colors. Using reference books, help children identify the tree each leaf comes from. You can make a class leaf/tree guide by gluing and labeling each leaf on a piece of paper.

Language Arts: Wind and Other Weather

Talk about other kinds of weather. Have children think about a book titled *Gilberto y el Sol* (Gilberto and the Sun), *Gilberto y la Lluvia* (Gilberto and the Rain), or *Gilberto y la Nieve* (Gilberto and the Snow). Have children write stories about the adventures Gilberto might have in these stories.

Science: Heavy or Light?

Have a supply of small objects of varying weights available (dried beans, pebbles, stones, feathers, blocks, Cheerios, and so on). Give each child a straw and let them experiment: which one is the easiest to blow around? Which is the hardest? Be sure that the objects are not small enough to fit through the straw.

INTERNET ACTIVITY

Before you send children to do research using any of the keywords listed below, you may wish to try them yourself to be sure the sites are suitable.

A Windy World

Have children use the keyword *weather* to find websites on the Internet that describe weather around the world. Ask them to choose a place and find out how hard the wind is predicted to blow there. Children can report on their findings to the class.