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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.