

Artful Stories:

A Preschool Tour Experience at the Minneapolis Institute of Art

Hide and Seek

Book

Hide and Seek in the Yellow House, written by Agatha Rose, illustrated by Kate Spohn

Materials

- Storybook
- Bonnard poster
- Cat puppet
- Picture frame
- Laminated songs

Lesson

Content Objectives

- Explore a storybook and artwork in the galleries
- Explore the Period Rooms using the illustrations from the book
- Make connections between the book and Bonnard's *Dining Room in the Country*

Skill Objectives

What students will do

- Listen to and talk about a storybook
- Make theme connections from the book to works of art
- Manipulate materials related to the tour theme

What students will learn

- Language acquisition and critical thinking
- Visual perception, discrimination and interpretation

Vocabulary

- Hide and Seek
- House/Home
- Cat
- Kitten
- Table
- Chair
- Flowers
- Window
- Bushes
- Food Dish
- Red
- Orange
- Yellow
- Green
- Blue
- Purple
- Pink
- Brown
- Gray

Activities

Introduction

Museum Rules

- Looking Eyes (making circles with hands around eyes)
- Listening Ears (have children wiggle ears)
- Quiet Hands (put hands in their lap)
- Inside Voice (put finger to mouth and make “shhhh” sound)

Picture Frame Rhyme

- Can be spoken or sung to the tune of “I’m a Little Teapot”
- Pass picture frame to each child in turn
- Have them hold up the frame to their face and say/sing the following
- Repeat for each child

*“Looking through my picture frame, who do I see?
I see [INSERT NAME] looking at me!”*

Artful Kids Rhyme

- Can be spoken or sung to the tune of “Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star”

*It’s story time at Mia
I’m so glad you’re here today
The art is here for everyone
So, let’s get ready to have some fun
We’ll sit down and read a book
And take our time to talk and look*

Gallery

Movement

- Walk through the galleries like a cat during the scavenger hunt in search of Mother Cat and Mack
- Place your hands on your head to make cat ears and walk quietly

Storybook

- Read the book in either a period room or in front of the Bonnard painting

Looking exercises

- There are several areas of the museum that correlate with the book
- You can read the book in a period room or in front of the Bonnard painting
- Let the students imagine they are walking into the yellow house to play hide and seek with Mack. Have them sit down and point out areas in the room they think would be good places for a cat to hide. As you read the book, point out areas of the period room that correlate through furniture and colors in the illustrations of the book.
- Suggestions
 - The Georgian Room, G327
 - The Charleston Drawing Room, G336

- There are other period rooms that have good places to sit and read the book, but don't necessarily relate to the book. You can still use the rooms to pretend you are in the yellow house and then later correlate the kitten's hiding places to the Bonnard painting (G355)
- Pierre Bonnard, *Dining Room in the Country*, G355
 - Let the students imagine they are looking at an image of the inside of the yellow house. As you read the book, point out areas in the painting that correlate through the furniture and colors in the illustrations of the book. Lay the laminated print down so the students can point at hiding spots.

Manipulative exercise

- Create a scavenger hunt for your route through the galleries in search of the Mother Cat and Mack (Bonnard painting)
- You can have the hunt take you all over the museum, or you can just focus on one area of the museum
- Write clues down on note cards to read out loud to the students
- Plan ahead with other guides giving this tour to not bump into each other
- An example of a scavenger hunt through the Impressionist galleries:
 1. Follow the clues and they will lead you to Mother Cat and Mack.
 2. As you enter the gallery, look for a forest of tall trees and people dressed in white. What are the people doing? (Maurice Denis's *Orpheus and Eurydice*)
 3. Now look around for a tasty treat. Can you find a basket of apples? What shapes do you see? What colors do you see? (Eva Gonzales's *Pomes d' Api*)
 4. Can you find two children playing in a field? Guess what they are doing. (Theodore Wendel's *Butterfly Catchers*)
 5. Enter the next gallery in search of a big yellow sun. What colors do you see? (Vincent Van Gogh's *Olive Trees*)
 6. Look for a lady dressed in red leaning on a windowsill. Can you see Mother Cat and Mack? (Pierre Bonnard's *Dining Room in the Country*)

Songs and Poems

I'm a Little Kitten

To the tune of "I'm a Little Teapot"

I'm a little kitten, Soft and furry.
I'll be your friend, so don't you worry.
Right up on your lap I like to hop,
Purr, purr, purr, and never stop.

My Kitten Poem

I have a little kitten,
She's black and white and gray.
When I try to cuddle her, she always wants to play,
So I drag a piece of yarn across the kitchen floor.
She thinks it is a little mouse to chase right out the door.

Love, Love Your Pets

To the tune of "Row, Row, Row Your Boat"

Love, love love your pets, love them every day.
Give them food and water, too, then let them run and play.