

# **Artful Stories:**

## **A Preschool Tour Experience at the Minneapolis Institute of Art**

### **Opposites**

#### **Book**

*Wee Sing & Learn Opposites*, written by Pamela Conn Beall and Susan Hagen Nipp, illustrated by Michael Moran

#### **Additional reinforcement books**

*I Like Black and White*, written by Barbara Jean Hicks, illustrated by Lila Prap

*Black? White! Day? Night! A Book of Opposites*, written by Laura Vaccaro Seeger

#### **Materials**

- 3 storybooks
- Opposite cards in small canvas bag
- Opposite boxes
- Picture frame
- Laminated songs

## **Lesson**

### **Content Objectives**

- Explore a storybook and artwork in the galleries
- Discover opposites in artwork and stories
- Act out opposite words with flash cards and boxes

### **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**

- Opposite
- Big, Little
- Up, Down
- Happy, Sad
- Full, Empty
- Wet, Dry
- In, Out
- Long, Short
- Straight, Curly
- Dirty, Clean
- Awake, Asleep
- Black, White
- Heavy, Light
- Open, Closed
- Hot, Cold
- Thick, Thin
- Front, Back
- Day, Night
- High, Low

## 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

- Emphasize all your actions by pointing out the movements you are making and asking the students what the opposite is
  - Example
    - When walking up the stairs say, “We are going Up Up UP! What is the opposite of up?”
- You can do this when walking, going up and down stairs and the elevator, taking something out or putting back into the bag, sitting down and standing up, etc.

### Storybook

- When reading *Wee Sing & Learn Opposites*, have the students say the words out loud at the top of the page after you read the sentences
- Look for the opposites in the illustrations together
  - There are more opposites in the illustrations than just the main characters, look at the plants and animals in the background
- At the end of the book there are extra opposite words and an I Spy game
  - Lay out the book and have the children take turns pointing out the opposites they spot

- Also, in the very beginning of the book there are illustrations with no words that can be used as an additional prop
- Use *Black? White! Day? Night! A Book of Opposites* as a prop
  - There is some advanced vocabulary throughout the book so use your judgment on the age level
  - You can use the book while looking at an artwork that matches the opposite words

#### Looking exercises

- Look around the museum for opposite artwork
- The opposites can be within the same artwork or two different ones
- Suggest easy words for the kids to find (man and woman, black and white, square and circle, up and down, dark and light) and look around the galleries for the opposites

#### Manipulative exercises

- Opposite Boxes
  - Use the opposite boxes as a prop to demonstrate opposites
  - Use the words on the boxes (black and white, top and bottom, inside and outside) and let the student suggest their own opposites
  - Use the two boxes to demonstrate inside and outside, above and below, right and left, big and small, square and circle
- Opposite Cards
  - The opposite cards can be used in a variety of ways: as a prop while reading the story, while looking at artwork, or as a game
  - There are 8 different pairs of opposites in the bag
  - The words are on the back of the cards because sometimes there is more than one answer when matching the cards
  - Example
    - When trying to find the opposite of winter, the students might pick Van Gogh's *Olive Trees* for summer instead of *The Butterfly Catchers*
  - Encourage them to make their own decisions based on the images rather than being concerned about matching the words on the back
  - Below are some examples of ways to use the cards:
    - Ahead of time separate the opposites into two piles (put winter in one pile and summer in another)
    - Spread out one of the piles, image side up, in front the students
    - Hold up a card from the other pile, show them the image and read the word out loud
    - Have the students take turns picking the card on the ground they think is the opposite
      - If the students are older, you can spread out all the cards image side up and have them work together to make the matches
    - When looking at an artwork that is not on the cards, have the student look through the cards and pick which card they think is the opposite
      - This can be done with either the words or images on the cards

## **Songs and Poems**

### **The Opposite Song By Jean Feldman**

We can do opposites!

We can do opposites, just follow me!

Top and bottom (*Point to top of your head, then you feet*)

Front and back (*Touch your tummy, then your back*)

Happy and sad (*Make a happy face, then a frown*)

Left and right (*Extend and shake left arm, then your right*)

Up and down (*Point up and down*)

Open and shut (*Open and close fists*)

Stand and sit (*Stand up and sit down*)

### **The Hokey Pokey**

You put your right foot in, you take your right foot out

You put your right foot in and you shake it all about

You do the hokey pokey and you turn yourself around

That's what it's all about

You put your left foot in, you take your left foot out

You put your left foot in and you shake it all about

You do the hokey pokey and you turn yourself around

That's what it's all about

You put your right hand in, you take your right hand out

You put your right hand in and you shake it all about

You do the hokey pokey and you turn yourself around

That's what it's all about

You put your left hand in, you take your left hand out

You put your left hand in and you shake it all about

You do the hokey pokey and you turn yourself around

That's what it's all about

You put your whole self in, you take your whole self out

You put your whole self in and you shake it all about

You do the hokey pokey and you turn yourself around

That's what it's all about

**If You're Happy and You Know It**

If you're happy and you know it, Clap your hands  
If you're happy and you know it, Clap your hands  
If you're happy and you know it, Then your face will surely show it  
If you're happy and you know it, Clap your hands.

If you're sad and you know it, Tap your toe  
If you're sad and you know it, Tap your toe  
If you're sad and you know it, Then your face will surely show it  
If you're sad and you know it, Tap your toe.  
If you're happy and you know it, Clap your hands  
If you're happy and you know it, Clap your hands  
If you're happy and you know it, Then your face will surely show it  
If you're happy and you know it, Clap your hands.