

Class 4: Aesthetics Lesson Plan

Materials:

- The Big Orange Splot
- Stickers
- Markers
- Scissors (just for adult use)
- Construction Paper (we have)
- Blank white paper

Goals:

- Explore ideas of beauty related to houses by reading The Big Orange Splot
- Investigate whether beauty is objective or subjective
- See whether beauty is limited to things you can see or if other senses can also perceive beauty

Timeframe (minutes):

Time	Activity
0 - 10	Introduction
10 - 30	The Big Orange Splot
30 - 45	House of Dreams
Extra Time/Wrap up	Color Discussion

Activities:

A. Intro - 10 min

- a. Names, favorite colors, What is something you think is pretty?
- b. Review rules of discussion
- c. Today we're going to be talking about beauty. What does the word beauty make you think of?
 - i. Do you have to be able to see something for it to be beautiful, or can there be beautiful sounds, tastes, smells, etc.?
 - ii. What makes things beautiful?
- d. Stretch break:** Frederick-themed - you're a tiny mouse coming out of your cave at the end of winter

B. Book: The Big Orange Splot– 20 min

- a. Stop when the neighbors express anger over Mr. Plumbean's painting of his house

- i. Did Mr. Plumbean paint the house in the way his neighbors wanted him to?
 - ii. What do you think of the way Mr. Plumbean painted his house? Does it look better or worse than the other houses?
 - iii. Why do his neighbors care so much? Should Mr. Plumbean be able to paint his house however he likes?
 - iv. If the splot had been a different color, do you think it would have mattered less to the neighbors?
 - v. Would the neighborhood look better if all the houses were painted the same? Why or why not?
 - vi. Do you think all the neighbors are equally mad about the way Mr. Plumbean painted his house? What if one of them really likes orange?
 - vii. **Stretch break:** Be the seagull that dropped the paint. Flap your wings, drop the paint, swoop down, etc.
- b. Finish book
- i. What happened? (reading comprehension)
 - ii. Which of the houses do you think is prettiest? Why?
 - 1. Why is it that we don't all think the same house is prettiest? What makes us think that some things are pretty and other things aren't pretty?
 - iii. Do you think any of the houses are ugly? What would you change about those houses?
 - iv. What would your dream house look like?
 - 1. Show example non traditional houses
 - v. What did you think of the drawings in this book vs in the other books we've read?
 - 1. Horton hears a who– limited colors, frederick– cut from paper, big orange split– colored by markers
 - 2. What about these other examples of book illustrations (see below)
 - 3. Are there any books that you've read where you really like the pictures? Any where you really didn't?
 - 4. Does the quality of the pictures affect how much you enjoy a book?

C. Activity: House of Dreams– 15 min

- a. Ask kids to select a color from the colored paper. Daisy/Annika cut each kid their own house shape from the color of their choice.
- b. Show stickers– decorations! Add things you think are pretty
- c. Offer to draw windows, doors– or they can
- d. Discussion while crafting:
 - i. Why are you adding X to your house? Why does that make it look better?

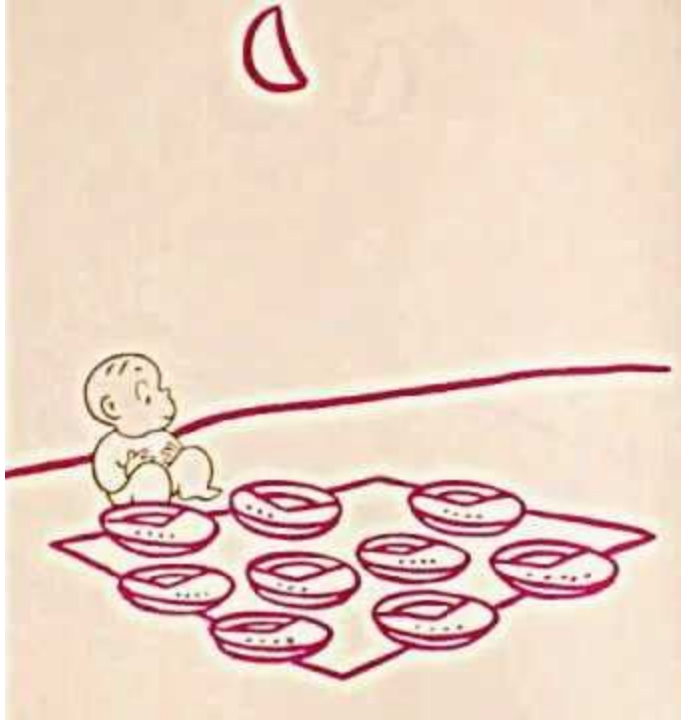
- ii. If your house always had beautiful music playing in it, what would it sound like? What makes that music beautiful?
- iii. Do the houses have to be neatly drawn for them to be beautiful?
 - 1. Opportunity for Annika and Daisy to disagree
- iv. Do you have to be a good artist to make something beautiful? Daisy doesn't think she's a good artist - can she still make a beautiful house?

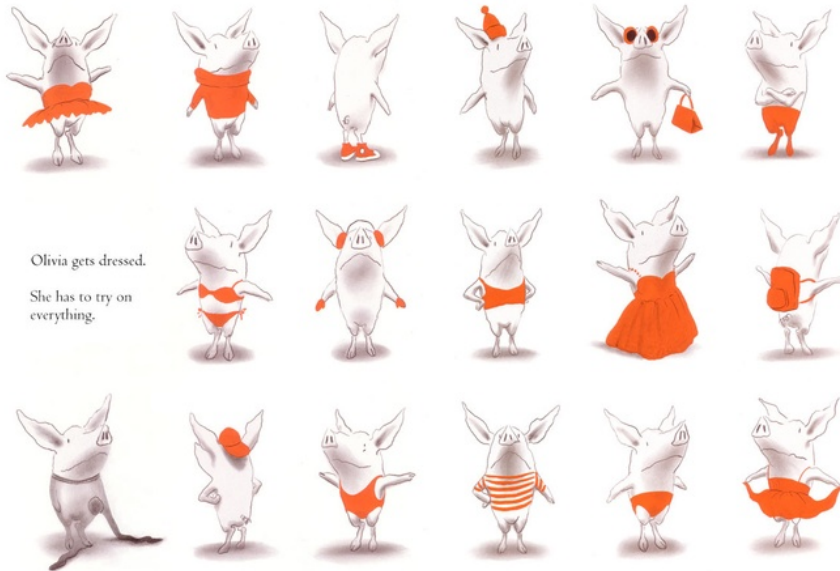
D. Color– wrap up– 5 min

- a. Do you like some colors more than others? Why?
- b. Do you think you like some colors more because of something in the color or something in you?
- c. Does the way you feel about certain colors change over time?
- d. Would the world be different if it was made up of different colors?









Olivia gets dressed.
She has to try on
everything.



