

Wacky Zacky Out Loud: An Interactive Reading Experience

Objective: Engage students in the storytelling process, enhancing comprehension, listening skills, and participation.

Materials Needed:

- A copy of "Wacky Zacky Bugs Out" written by Tarana Peaches and illustrated by Henrique C. Rampazzo.
- Props or images related to the story (optional).
- A list of prompts or actions for specific parts of the story.

Activity Overview:

As you read "Wacky Zacky Bugs Out" aloud to the class, students will be invited to participate through sounds, actions, or responses at key moments in the story. This active involvement helps bring the story to life and deepens their connection to the narrative.

Instructions:

1. **Preparation:** Briefly introduce the story, highlighting that students will have special parts to play as you read. Distribute any props or show images that might be used during the reading.
2. **Sound Effects:** Assign simple sound effects for students to make when certain things happen in the story. For example:
 - When Zacky encounters a bug, students could make buzzing sounds.

- If Zacky is running or moving quickly, students could pat their laps to create the sound of running feet.
3. **Actions:** Incorporate movements or gestures at specific points. For instance:
 - When Zacky uses the Cool Critter Catcher, students could mimic the action of pulling a lever or pressing a button.
 - If Zacky is thinking or pondering a plan, students could tap their temples thoughtfully.
 4. **Questions and Predictions:** Pause at suspenseful moments to ask predictive questions. For example, "What are the 'some little things' Zacky can do with out?"
 5. **Emotional Responses:** Encourage students to show how they think Zacky feels at different parts of the story through facial expressions or thumbs up/down.
 6. **Conclusion:** After finishing the story, have a brief discussion about what everyone enjoyed, learned, or found surprising. Ask questions like "Why do you think bugs are important?" to connect the story to broader themes.

Tips for Success:

- Adapt the activity to your class size and the students' age. For larger groups, consider assigning roles to small groups rather than individuals.
- Use the activity as an opportunity to highlight key themes of the book, such as the importance of bugs in ecosystems and the value of curiosity and problem-solving.