

Clovis Keeps His Cool

Author: Katelyn Aronson

Illustrator: Eve Farb

Related Books:

[Out of a Jar](#) by Deborah Marcero

[Grumpy Bird](#) by Jeremy Tankard

[Allie All Along](#) by Sarah Lynne Reul

Related Websites:

[Katelyn Aronson author website](#)

[Rockland Public Library Read-aloud](#)

[Tie Dye Reader Read-aloud](#)

Activities:

Language Arts/Communication and Information Skills

- Discussion: At the end of the story ask students what they think Clovis will do the next time someone makes him angry.
- Have students list adjectives to describe Clovis at the beginning of the story (“since taking over Granny’s shop, he felt calmer”) the middle (“Clovis was all out of grace.”), and the end (“plenty of grace to go around”).
- The story has clear stages (exposition, rising action, climax, falling action, conclusion). Discuss the elements and have students fill out the Story Map on page 4:
https://dpi.wi.gov/sites/default/files/imce/ela/bank/RL.KID_Story_Map.pdf
- Figurative Language: Teaching Idioms (Read. Write. Think.)
<https://www.readwritethink.org/classroom-resources/lesson-plans/figurative-language-teaching-idioms> (Thematic idiom: A Bull in a China Shop)
By developing a clear understanding of figurative language, students can further comprehend texts that contain metaphorical and lexical meanings beyond the basic word level. In this lesson, students explore figurative language with a focus on the literal versus the metaphorical translations of idioms.

Math/Science/Technology

- In the book Clovis stacks tea cups - he also has to learn strategies for staying calm and working together. In this challenge groups of students will work together to stack cups without touching them. <https://kidsactivitiesblog.com/80672/red-cup-stem-challenge-for-kids/>

Social Studies/History/Geography

- Khan Academy (Chinese porcelain: production and export):
 - <https://www.khanacademy.org/humanities/ap-art-history/south-east-se-asia/china-art/a/chinese-porcelain-production-and-export>
- Britannica Kids - History of Tea
 - Article for younger kids: <https://kids.britannica.com/kids/article/tea/353838>
 - Article for older kids: <https://kids.britannica.com/students/article/tea/275434>

Art/Music/Drama

- Watch Mister Rogers sing “What do you do with the Mad that you Feel”
<https://misterrogers.org/videos/what-to-you-do-with-the-mad-that-you-feel/>

- Open discussion: Clovis puts on soothing music to help relax before work. What kind of music do you like to listen to when you are relaxing? Think of music that you have heard that can have a change on how you feel (happy, sad, tired, silly, energetic). What is it about the music that gives it that feeling? (fast, slow, soft, loud, the words, etc)

Enrichment Express

- Here are 10 tips for helping kids practice breathing and emotional mindfulness (PBS Kids)
<https://www.pbs.org/parents/thrive/breathing-exercises-to-help-calm-young-children>
- Game: Have one team cut up a print out of a piece of porcelain ceramic and another team put it back together. Give time limits and talk about methods used. Example image for cutting up:
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/10eJ0VjkIdtmsH55XEgT3y6i-xAR9m338/view?usp=sharing>