

LEO LIONNI - AN AUTHOR STUDY

UNIT OVERVIEW

This author study, developed for grades 1-3, is designed to explore the books and artwork of Leo Lionni. The time frame for the unit is about three to four weeks. This can be easily adjusted depending on the goals, needs, and more importantly, on the interest of each individual class. As well, the order in which Leo Lionni's books are shared is entirely up to the teacher, building even more flexibility into the unit.

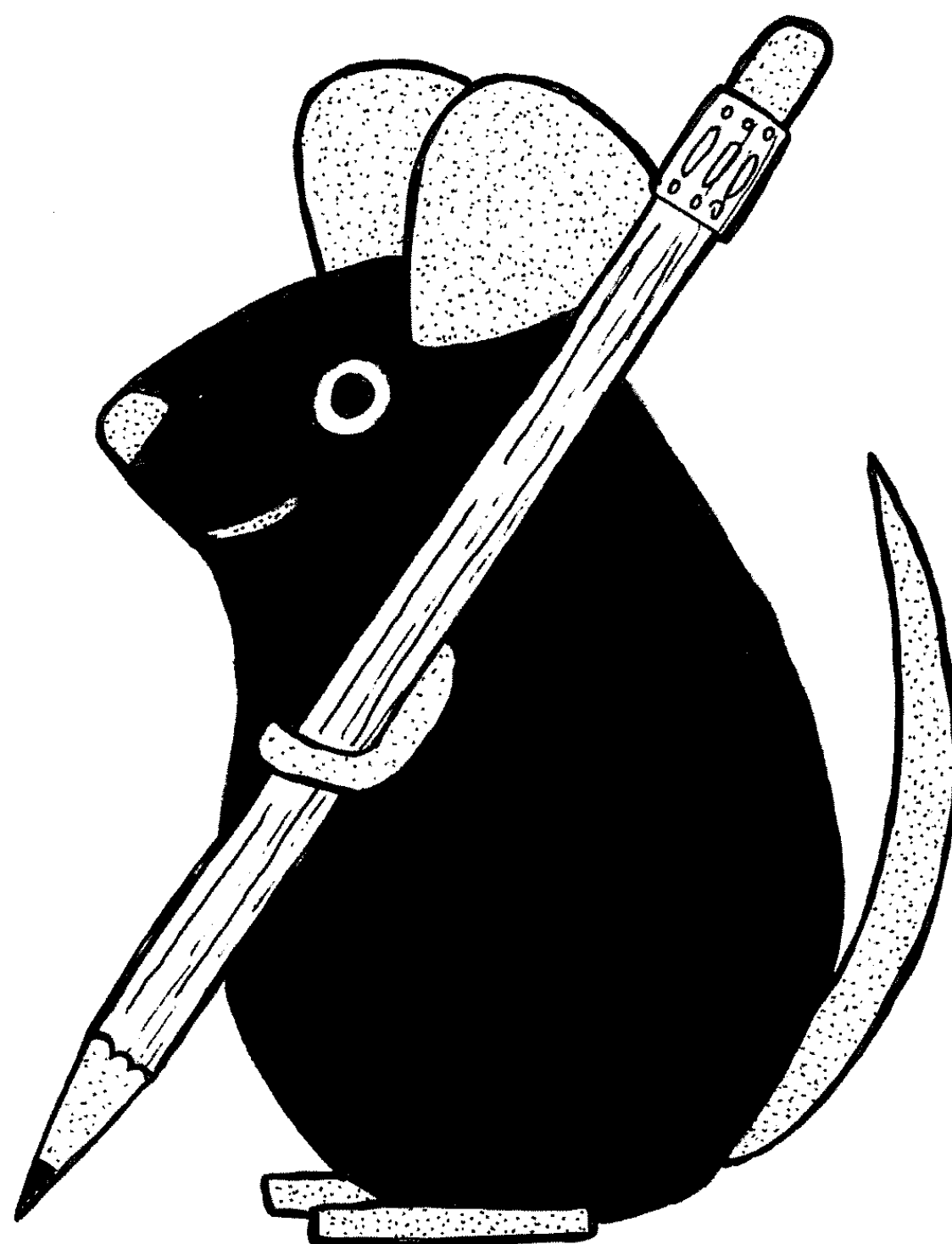
All areas of the curriculum are integrated into this unit, including activities related to: literature, poetry, vocabulary development, math, art, music, social studies, science, life skills, physical education, and parent involvement (extending the unit to the child's home). Many of these activities encourage co-operative learning as your students will learn to love literature through the books of Leo Lionni.

PART I - FOR THE TEACHER

- 1) A List of Leo Lionni's Books
- 2) Who Is Leo Lionni?
- 3) Setting Up the Classroom
- 4) Suggested Activities to Enhance the Unit
- 5) Evaluation and Record Keeping - Individual Student Assessment Form, Self-Evaluation Form

PART II - LESSONS AND WORKSHEETS

- Lesson #1 - Meeting Leo Lionni
- Lesson #2 - The Alphabet Tree
- Lesson #3 - Little Blue And Little Yellow
- Lesson #4 - A Color Of His Own
- Lesson #5 - An Extraordinary Egg
- Lesson #6 - Frederick
- Lesson #7 - The Greentail Mouse
- Lesson #8 - Mr. McMouse
- Lesson #9 - Matthew's Dream
- Lesson #10 - A Busy Year
- Lesson #11 - Tillie And The Wall
- Lesson #12 - Alexander And The Wind-Up Mouse
- Lesson #13 - Geraldine, The Music Mouse
- Lesson #14 - Nicholas, Where Have You Been?
- Lesson #15 - A Flea Story
- Lesson #16 - Tico And The Golden Wings
- Lesson #17 - Inch By Inch
- Lesson #18 - Let's Make Rabbits
- Lesson #19 - Six Crows
- Lesson #20 - It's Mine
- Lesson #21 - On The Beach There Are Many Pebbles
- Lesson #22 - The Biggest House In The World
- Lesson #23 - Swimmy
- Lesson #24 - Fish Is Fish
- Lesson #25 - Wrapping Up The Unit



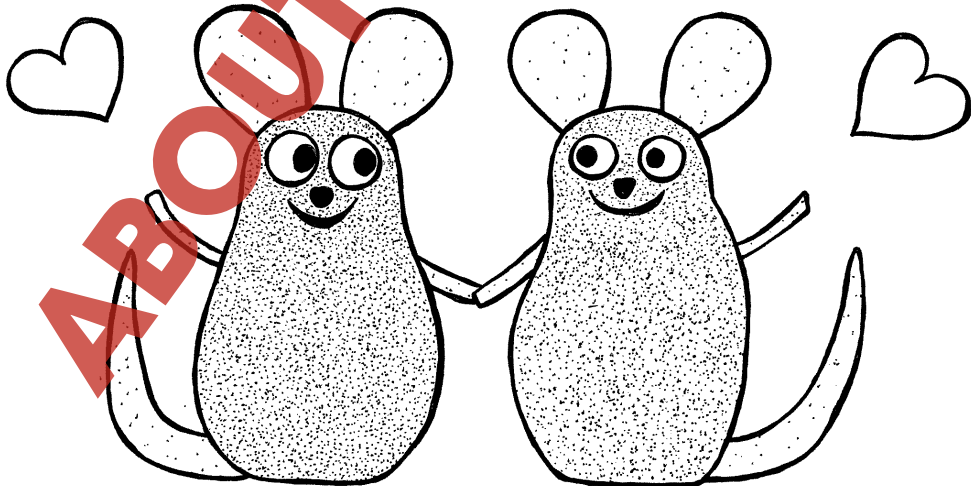
WHO IS LEO LIONNI?

Leo Lionni was born in Holland. He spent much of his childhood in art museums in Amsterdam teaching himself how to draw. He never received any formal art training.

In 1939, Leo Lionni left Holland with his wife and two sons and moved to the United States, where he became involved in graphic arts. He is known as a designer, artist, sculptor, art director and author of children's books. He is a four-time Caldecott Honor Book Winner for the books: *Inch By Inch*, *Frederick*, *Sammy*, and *Alexander and the Wind-Up Mouse*.

He didn't start writing children's books until the late 1950's. His first book, *Little Blue and Little Yellow*, was created to entertain his grandchildren while traveling on a train. He is quoted as saying, "I really don't make books for children at all. I write for anyone, regardless of age - who still possess some of the childlike wonder and joy of life."

His picture books are noted for being playful and serious. They are distinguished by their graphic simplicity and brilliant use of collage. Many of his stories are fables and children soon see the importance of love, understanding, sharing, the need to get along with others, and working co-operatively.



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5

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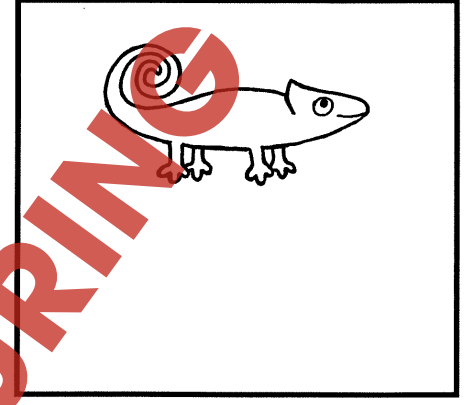
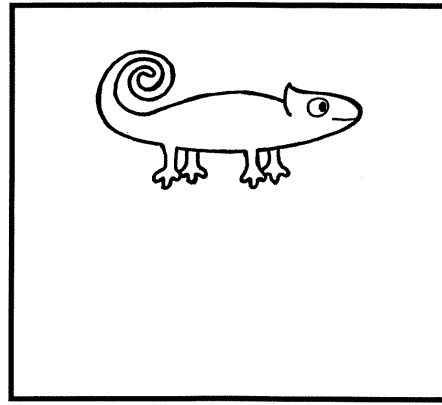


I SEE A CHAMELEON

Name: _____

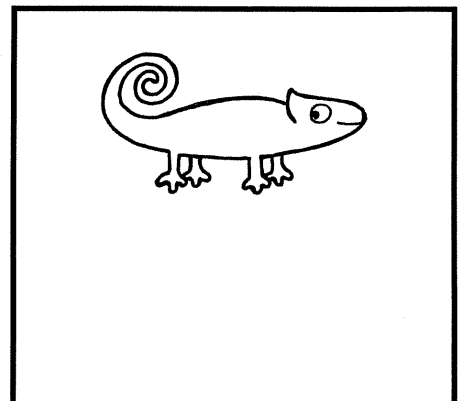
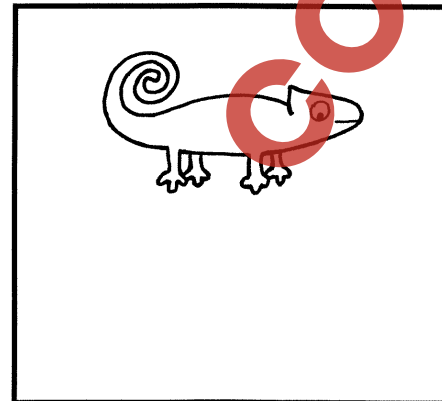
I see a chameleon on a _____

I see a chameleon on a _____



I see a chameleon on a _____

I see a chameleon on a _____



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22

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ANIMAL RESEARCH

Name: _____

Name of the animal: _____

What family of animals does it belong to? _____

Animal characteristics

Animal's Habitat

Animal Babies:

What the animal eats:

Other interesting facts about the animal:

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24

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STORY SEQUENCING - EXTRAORDINARY EGG



Instructions:

Make 10 copies of this activity on manila tag. Cut each sentence so that it is on a separate strip and store them in envelopes marked: *Extraordinary Egg*. Divide the class into groups of two or three giving each group an envelope of sentences. Have each group work co-operatively to sequence the story and hand it in to the teacher. After the students have completed the assignment, collect the envelopes and save them for the next time you do a Leo Lionni theme. (These same strips can also be used for the pocket chart story-building activity described earlier in the lesson.)

Jessica went for a long walk and found a beautiful stone.

Jessica found an egg.

The egg hatches. The frogs like the new chicken.

The frogs and the chicken swim and play together.

Jessica gets tangled in the weeds.

The baby chicken saves Jessica.

Jessica and the chicken become good friends.

Jessica takes her new friend to a very special place.

A little bird finds Jessica and the chicken.

The little bird tells the chicken that her mother is looking for her.

The baby chicken finds her mother.

The mother called the chicken a "sweet little alligator".

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27

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STORY MAP GREENTAIL MOUSE

Name: _____

Beginning:

[Empty box for beginning illustration]

Middle:

[Empty box for middle illustration]

Ending:

[Empty box for ending illustration]

READER'S THEATRE: A BUSY YEAR

Characters: Narrator, Willie, Winnie, Woody

Narrator: In January, two twin mice named Willie and Winnie went for a walk.

Willie: Look a snowman.

Winnie: He's holding a broom.

Woody: My name is Woody. I'm not a snowman. I'm not holding a broom. I'm a tree. It's nice to meet you.

Willie and Winnie: Hello, we are Willie and Winnie.

Narrator: In February, the two mice returned to visit the tree.

Willie/ and Winnie: Hi Woody.

Woody: Hi Willie and Winnie. Tell me about yourselves.

Willie: We live in a barn.

Winnie: Cows and horses and chickens live there too.

Willie: We have to stay away from the cat.

Narrator: In March the rain just didn't seem to want to stop. Willie and Winnie went to see Woody.

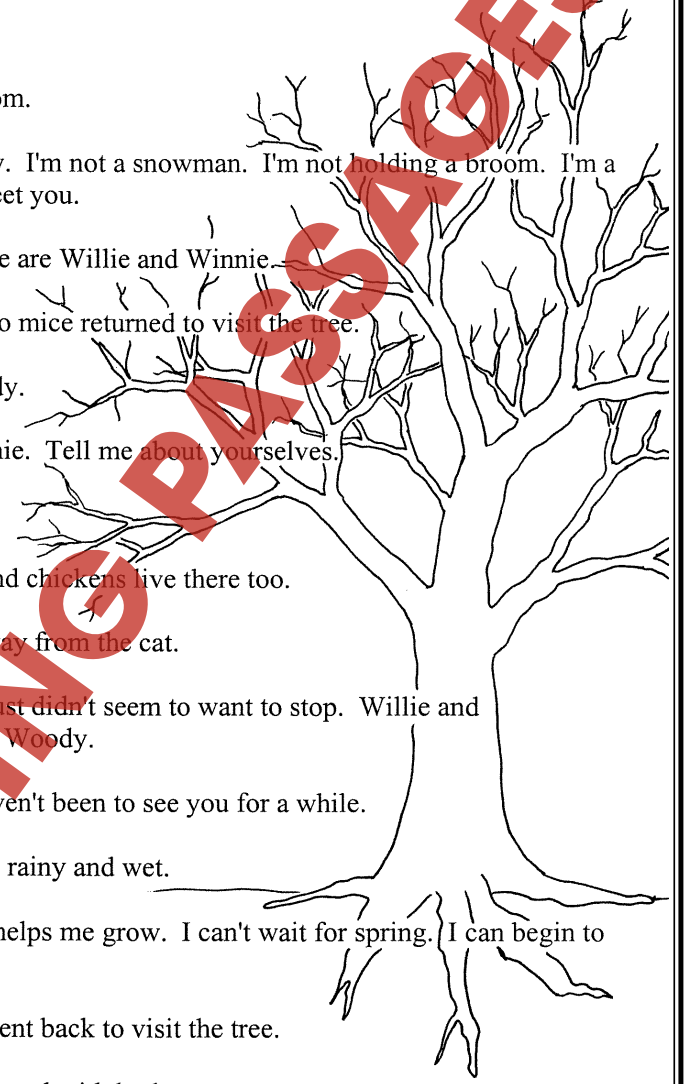
Willie: Hi Woody. We haven't been to see you for a while.

Winnie: Yes, it has been too rainy and wet.

Woody: I need this rain. It helps me grow. I can't wait for spring. I can begin to feel my buds.

Narrator: In April the mice went back to visit the tree.

Willie: Look Woody is covered with buds.



THE RABBITS' ADVENTURE

Name: _____

[Large empty box for creative writing]

INDIVIDUAL STUDENT ASSESSMENT FORM

Student's Name: _____

Date(s) Observed: _____

3 - mastered 2 - competent 1 - developing 0 - undeveloped

Attitudes



Skills and Processes



Knowledge

