

E.T. - A LOCAL WAY OF LEARNING

Title:

COME FLY WITH ME

Author:

Eulalie R. Rivera Elementary School
Environmental Education Team

Grade Level:

Concepts:

2. Ecosystem

Disciplines:

1. Language Arts
2. Social Studies
3. Art
4. Science

Objective:

By observing any desired creature or object, students will imagine themselves as that selected creature or object and communicate their perceptions and feelings through acting, writing or drawing.

Rationale:

What will I learn?

- A. How to observe -- through the senses
- B. How to imagine yourself as another creature
- C. How to communicate your ideas and feelings -- through writing and/or acting

Much of the great literature in the world had its inspiration in nature. Give it a try!

Directions/Activity:

Choose an animal, tree, leaf, rock, or whatever appeals to you. Pick a creature that you like or that interests you. It may even be one that's difficult to stay with--like a bird or a fish, so you'll have to observe several of its brothers. This is alright--only pick something that really interests you. Keep in mind the season--rainy or dry. What does your creature or thing do at this time of year?

What's Next?

Spend twenty minutes imitating the actions, movements, and reactions of your creature or object. Get into the "feel" of it. For example, if you're a tree--spread your arms, let the wind shake you, stand rigid or bending. Are you a mighty mahogany or a young sapling. Look, feel and smell your tree and do what it does, stand allside it, act as it does.

Is your choice a toad or frog? If so, try and find one. Observe him/her and do as it does--squat, blink, lie low, hop, whatever it does, without hurting yourself or getting wet. Be careful, but again get involved with your chosen object or creature by observing and by doing what it does.

E.T.
COME FLY WITH ME

And Then?

Find a comfortable place and sit down. Collect your ideas and write about yourself as if you were the creature or object you have just imitated. You may begin with: "I am. . ." or start with a question, sound, smell, or scene - you decide. You may write a poem, story, letter, description or speech. Take your pick--whatever you do best. Just try to cover these ideas--in any order you like.

Tell us:

Where you live (describe its size, shape, color, position)

Why you live there (give some good reasons)

Who your neighbors are (name some if you can)

How you help other plants and animals (What do you do for them)

What you feel towards people

What special feelings you had today

Start writing!

E.T.
COME FLY WITH ME

What do I do when I'm finished?

Read over your ideas and see if your writing covers the when, why, who, how and the what. You might enjoy reading aloud to a nearby friend or to your teacher.

Can I draw?

Yes, if you have the time, draw your creature or thing. Later you can add details and color back in class. Use the space below for your sketch.

If there's time:

In the field as a conclusion, students and teacher may want to share their writings and art work.