

The Rainbow Connection by Vanessa Parsons

Teacher's Notes

Level	Achievement Standard	Focus Activity
Foundation	Reading and Viewing – Literature - Literature and Context Recognise that texts are created by authors who tell stories and share experiences that may be similar or different to students' own experiences (<u>VCELT148</u>)	Discuss how the children's experiences in lockdown were similar or different to the characters in the story. Question prompts include: How did you feel in lockdown? Did you get bored? Did you display a rainbow? Where did you display it? Who spotted a rainbow or teddy bear on a walk? Who connected with their grandparents/family online? Did they need help? Did you enjoy remote schooling? Would you prefer remote schooling or being at school? Who celebrated a birthday in lockdown? Did you have a rainbow cake? How did you feel about having a birthday in lockdown? What did you miss most during lockdown? What were you grateful for during lockdown?
Foundation	Writing - Literacy – creating texts Create short texts to explore, record and report ideas and events using familiar words and beginning writing knowledge (<u>VCELY160</u>)	Write or draw a response to the following statement – When we all had to stay apart, I..... Discuss the use of rainbows on each page of the book to maintain the reader's interest. Ask the children to add a rainbow somewhere in their response.

<p>One</p>	<p>Speaking and Listening - Literature – responding to literature</p> <p>Discuss characters and events in a range of literary texts and share personal responses to these texts, making connections with own experiences (VCELT207)</p>	<p>In pairs, children discuss how their experience was the same or different from the characters in the text.</p> <p>Read the book the whole way through then organise the children to sit on the floor in pairs. Reread the story, stopping reading after each two page spread to allow the children to discuss, in their pairs, how their experience was the same or different from the characters in the text.</p> <p>Question prompts include:</p> <p>Were you bored at home? Did you fight with your siblings?</p> <p>Did you display a rainbow at your house? How did you display it?</p> <p>Did you write any messages of hope? What did you write and where did you write it?</p> <p>How did you communicate with your grandparents/relatives and friends? Did you have any hiccups?</p> <p>Did you place a teddy bear in a window at your house? Did you spot any teddy bears whilst our walking?</p> <p>Did your parents have to work from home? What did this mean for you?</p> <p>How did you keep in contact with your extra-curricular activities?</p> <p>Did you celebrate a birthday in lockdown? What did you do? How did you feel about this?</p> <p>How did you stay connected with family and friends?</p> <p>Did you participate in remote schooling? Where was your desk? How did you feel about remote schooling?</p> <p>Did you go for daily walks with your family?</p> <p>Were you looking forward to life returning to normal?</p> <p>What things did you miss in lockdown?</p> <p>What has the lockdown experience taught you to be grateful for?</p>
------------	---	---

Two	<p>Reading and Viewing – Literacy – Texts in Context</p> <p>Discuss different texts on a similar topic, identifying similarities and differences between the texts (<u>VCELY220</u>)</p>	<p>Read The Rainbow Connection and Windows by Patrick Guest.</p> <p>Complete a whole class venn diagram of the similarities and differences between the two books. Children discuss in pairs what book they prefer and why.</p>
Two	<p>Speaking and Listening – Literature – Literature and Context</p> <p>Discuss how depictions of characters in print, sound and images reflect the contexts in which they were created. (<u>VCELT240</u>)</p>	<p>Prior to reading The Rainbow Connection ask the students when they think the story was written and what makes them think this? Ask the children to look for evidence to support their belief whilst the story is being read. Discuss their findings.</p>
Two	<p>Create short imaginative, informative and persuasive texts using growing knowledge of text structures and language features for familiar and some less familiar audiences, selecting print and multimodal elements appropriate to the audience and purpose (VCELY230)</p>	<p>Write a letter to the author expressing when they think the story was written and why they think this. Encourage the children to ask any questions they may have about the book or the writing process. (Vanessa will be certain to respond).</p> <p>All letters can be posted to:</p> <p>Vanessa Parsons PO Box 1092 Mornington Vic 3931</p>

Other Activities:

Gratitude

The theme of gratitude plays an important part in **The Rainbow Connection**, there is the gratitude of being outside for an hour each day; the gratitude for each rainbow and the people who took the time to display them; the gratitude for technology and the way we could use it to stay connected and; the way lockdown taught us to be grateful for things in our life we may have taken for granted.

Studies show that gratitude is a very powerful tool for children, with children who practise gratitude experiencing:

- Higher levels of happiness and optimism
- Better sleep
- Better ability to cope with stress
- Better ability to focus
- Fewer health problems

Discuss what gratitude is with your children and how gratitude plays a theme in **The Rainbow Connection**. Children can complete the 'Rainbow Gratitude List' activity sheet (see PDF download in Notes for Parents and Teachers) or you might like to have the children make individual craft rainbows (see craft activities below) and write one thing they are grateful for in large print on their rainbow. Discuss how focusing on gratitude makes the children feel. You might like to take the class on a gratitude walk around the school grounds. Walk around the school and have the children point out everything they feel grateful for.

Rainbow Acrostic – write an acrostic poem using the word RAINBOW that reflects things lockdown taught you to be grateful for.

Art and Science

The following website has 25 simple rainbow activities that incorporate both craft and science:

<https://www.weareteachers.com/rainbow-crafts/>

Technology

Challenge the children to construct a rainbow using Lego.