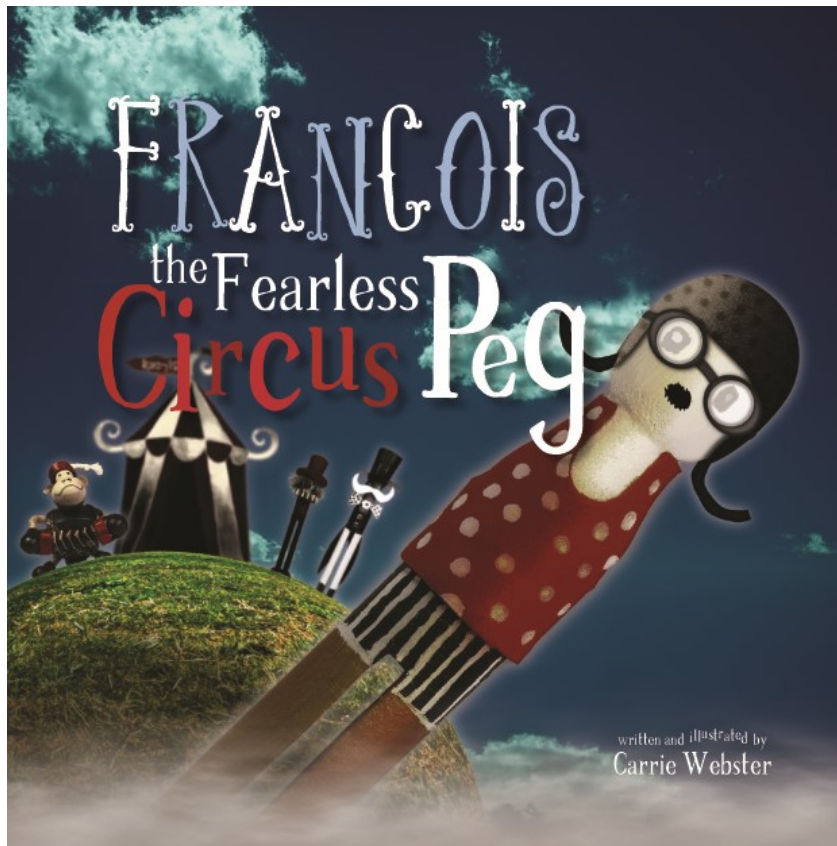




LESSON PLAN IDEAS FOR

FRANCOIS THE FEARLESS CIRCUS PEG



About the book

Grade Level: K – 2

Ages: 4 – 8

Pages: 32

Subject/Theme: The Circus

Publisher: Little Steps Publishing

Genre: Rhyming Story & Picture Book

BOOK OVERVIEW

Francois the Fearless is a circus peg with wooden legs. Follow his whimsical adventures through the days of the week as a quirky circus performer who is fearless and brave, but can also feel scared and frightened. Francois not only conquers his fears every day, but faces them head on! Meet his unique circus friends who are both the same, and different to Francois, and see what makes them all special.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Carrie Webster is a photographer and artist who conjured up these delightful circus characters by creating little people as wooden pegs & photographing them. She continues to create intriguing characters by photographing everyday objects and transforming them into magic!





PRE-READING ACTIVITY

Look at the front cover and discuss what the story might be about. What do the title and cover illustrations tell us? Does the description on the back cover give more information?

AFTER READING ACTIVITIES

- ❖ Think of words and phrases to describe Francois in this story. Look through the text to find words and phrases that the author uses.

- ❖ Francois would go to the end of the world for his friends. What do you think this means? Discuss.

- ❖ Write down or discuss all the different circus characters that you can see in the book. Which one is your favourite and why?

- ❖ List other kinds of activities would you do in a circus?

- ❖ Is this book an example of a make-believe story or a true story? Explain your answer.

- ❖ Write a story about a day in the life of you being a circus performer. Choose a circus activity that you think you might be good at or you would like to do. What would you need to do to practice? How would you feel when you were performing? How dangerous would it be?



OTHER THEMES TO DISCUSS – WRITTEN OR VERBAL

- Francois is scared of doing lots of things, but he still does them anyway. When have you been scared of doing something, but have done it anyway? How did you feel after you'd done it?
- Feelings – do you think everyone feels scared sometimes?

SCIENCE

Fascinating Facts. Help students to research elephants to learn more about these magnificent creatures, using non-fiction reference materials. Have partners or groups work together to create a list of 10 fascinating facts about elephants and present it to the class.



ART & CRAFT ACTIVITIES

Printout materials for these activities and more detail are available in the Art and Craft Activities downloadable PDF here:

- **Make character circus puppets.**
Print and then cut out the characters to make puppets. Stick them to paddle pop sticks.
- **Create the characters using wooden dolly pegs.**
Colour in the costumes before you cut them out and stick them on to the pegs.
- Draw yourself as a circus performer doing something fun.



WORKSHEET ACTIVITIES

These activities have a corresponding worksheet provided at the end of this document that you can print out and distribute to your class.

Activity 1 – Same and different (See Page 5)

Francois says that he is different and the same as you. In what ways are you the same as Francois? In what ways are you different? Why do you think we are all different? In what ways are we different? In what ways are we the same? Choose from a list of statements and if they are true or false for you. Some of the statements are ambiguous.

Activity 2 – Rhyming Words cards (See Page 6)

Cut the cards out and match the word pairs that rhyme.

Activity 3 – Words and Meanings (See Page 8)

Write down or talk about the meanings of these words.

Activity 4 – Days of the Week cards (See Page 9)

Cut the cards out and sort them into the right order for the days of the week. On which days was Francois scared? Which days was he happy? Were there days when he was both?



ACTIVITY 1 – SAME AND DIFFERENT

On the list below, choose which statements are a YES or NO by ticking your answer.

I sometimes feel frightened	YES	NO
I have two wooden legs	YES	NO
I am a circus peg	YES	NO
I love elephants	YES	NO
My name is Francois	YES	NO
My friends are all special	YES	NO
I can walk on a tightrope	YES	NO
I sometimes feel scared	YES	NO
I work in a circus	YES	NO
I love lions	YES	NO
I sometimes feel proud	YES	NO
I feed the lions on Fridays	YES	NO
I am a character in a story	YES	NO
I am unique	YES	NO
I sometimes pretend to be brave	YES	NO



ACTIVITY 2 – RHYMING WORDS

Cut the cards out and match the word pairs that rhyme.

Peg	Strong
Sky	Dread
Fears	Before
Wrong	Friend
Fly	Around



Leg

Cheers

Air

Know

Head

Floor

End

Show

Ground

Care



ACTIVITY 3 – WORDS AND MEANINGS

Write down or talk about the meanings of these words:

Curious	Meaning:
Triumph	Meaning:
Amazed	Meaning:
Contract	Meaning:
Soar	Meaning:
Propelled	Meaning:
Dread	Meaning:
Equate	Meaning:
Pride	Meaning:
Massive	Meaning:
Extraordinary	Meaning:



ACTIVITY 4 – DAYS OF THE WEEK

Cut the cards out and sort them into the right order for the days of the week. On which days was Francois scared? Which days was he happy? Were their days when he was both?

Tuesday	Sunday
Saturday	Monday
Wednesday	Friday
Thursday	