

Dear Parents,

What happens when a young boy crawls into a magical giant peach and meets a group of huge, talking insects? An amazing adventure begins and we are so lucky be joining them on this wild ride!

Since every character in James and the Giant Peach has a unique personality, we started to create a character analysis for each one of them. This supports our recent discussions regarding the use of adjectives and has also introduced us to the use of synonyms and antonyms.

We used Visual Thinking Strategies while observing Vincent van Gogh's famous Starry Night painting. The children were asked very basic questions and were encouraged to share their interpretation of what they saw, using words like foreground and background. Activities like this foster the development of language skills, listening skills, critical thinking skills, and gives us opportunities to discuss different points of view.

Throughout our Art History study, the children will explore different art media. This week the children were given the chance to use oil pastels and noticed that, with a bit of pressure, colors could be blended together using their fingers. They also created magnificent works-of-art using a watercolor resist technique.

If given the choice, would you rather spend the day in a garden or in a museum? If YOU were our teacher, what would you teach? These are examples of the questions that I ask when we are journaling. I encourage the kids to include an illustration and to use the word "because" in order to enhance their answers.

Notes:

- I will be submitting our Scholastic Book order on Friday, September 28<sup>th</sup>. Please place your order ASAP using our class code TQPD3.
- Please save Box Tops for Education and send them in with your child. (Ask family and neighbors to collect for us too!) It is a simple way to earn money for our school!
- If you have not already done so, please send in a family picture and an extra set of clothes (labeled with your child's name) to be kept at school.

- We have snack time after recess in the afternoon. Please be sure to send a healthy/nut free snack option such as fruit, veggies, yogurt or cheese.
- Be sure to periodically check out our Classroom Page on the Plato website to see pictures of our most recent shenanigans. ;o)

Wish List:

- We have two items on our Wish List that will coincide with our Art History curriculum. (You can cut and paste the links below.) Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions regarding my plans for classroom use, or if you're willing to purchase one for our classroom.

<https://www.letsticktogether.com/collections/masterpiece-collection/products/mona-lisa>

<https://www.letsticktogether.com/collections/masterpiece-collection/products/starry-night-small-format>

As always, please feel free to call, email, or text me with any questions or concerns.

Bridget

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