

THE EMPEROR'S OLD CLOTHES

by Kathryn Lasky



Activities:

- ① If you have the resources or are studying people of another culture, you might look at the traditional clothing worn by people during another time or in different countries or cultures. See if students can think of a reason for the style of clothing worn at the time or in the country, or both (such as the chaps, hats, boots, and bandanas worn by cowboys).
- ② Students decide on a very different kind of clothing from what they normally wear. Then they imagine how a normal day in their lives would become very different because of these strange clothes they are wearing. Discuss how exaggeration and expressions can add humor to a story and show how this was done in *The Emperor's Old Clothes*. When students write about this unusual day, they can exaggerate the situation and events and add some expressions they have heard—or make up some new ones.
- ③ Make a list of the expressions Henry uses. Read another book with many colloquial expressions such as *Flossie and the Fox* or one of the McBroom books. See if students can add to the list with expressions they have heard or with modern-day expressions. They can add some of these or other expressions to their stories.
- ④ Read other versions of *The Emperor's New Clothes* and compare settings, events, and characters. Students can pair up to write the theme of the stories in one or two sentences. A list of all the themes can then be compared.
- ⑤ Make a large T chart on the board or overhead. Brainstorm and list characteristics or personality traits for the emperor before the parade on the left and his traits after the parade on the right. Some traits may be on both sides. Students should be able to give evidence from the story to support the character trait. Some words or phrases may be in the text (such as “wore ostentatious clothes”) while others are implied (“embarrassed” - book says “turned bright red.”) Older students who have worked with character traits may be able to work in small groups and then share or combine lists as a total group.

Related Books:

Flossie and the Fox by Patricia McKissack

King Bob's New Clothes by Dom DeLuise

King Long Shanks by Jane Yolen

McBroom Tells a Lie (and others) by Sid Fleischman

The Emperor's New Clothes by Demi

The Emperor's New Clothes by Hans Christian Andersen (translated by Naomi Lewis)

The Emperor Penguin's New Clothes by Janet Perlman

The Principal's New Clothes by Stephanie Calmenson

You Forgot Your Skirt, Amelia Bloomer by Shana Corey