The Legend of the Poinsettia

by: Tomie dePaola
**COMMON CORE STANDARDS ADDRESSED**

**Reading**

Key Ideas and Details:
- Read closely to determine what the text says explicitly and to make logical inferences from it; cite specific textual evidence when writing or speaking to support conclusions drawn from the text.
- Determine central ideas or themes of a text and analyze their development; summarize the key supporting details and ideas.

Integration of Knowledge and Ideas:
- Integrate and evaluate content presented in diverse media formats, including visually and quantitatively, as well as in words.

**Language** (in the figurative language poinsettia)

Knowledge of Language:
- Apply knowledge of language to understand how language functions in different contexts, to make effective choices for meaning or style, and to comprehend more fully when reading or listening.

Vocabulary Acquisition and Use:
- Demonstrate understanding of figurative language, word relationships, and nuances in word meanings.
BEFORE READING:

• What do you know about poinsettias?
• When do you usually see them?
• Where do you usually see them?
• What are poinsettias associated with?
The Legend of the Poinsettia

retold and illustrated by Tomie dePaola
The Legend of the Poinsettia - English

https://youtu.be/Tb72HtVjd-4
COMPREHENSION CHECK

1. Where does this story take place?
2. Did Lucida and her family do every day?
3. Why does Lucida hide when everyone goes to church?
4. Why did Lucida’s mom decide to make the blanket?
5. What would you do if your mom were sick and couldn’t finish the blanket?
6. Make a comparison between what you and your family do for Christmas Eve or Christmas and what Lucida and her family did. What are some similarities and differences?
A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE POINSETTIA
**FOLLOW-UP ACTIVITIES FOR THE LEGEND OF THE POINSETTIA**

- On her teaching blog, Susan Jones, an experienced 1st grade teacher and literacy expert, provides 3 activities to accompany this story. One provides comprehension check questions, another is based on vocabulary terms in the text, and the third is a how-to on drawing poinsettias. [https://susanjonesteaching.com/free-legend-of-the-poinsettia-activities/](https://susanjonesteaching.com/free-legend-of-the-poinsettia-activities/)

- On this blog, Patty Palmer, an art teacher from California, provides easy to follow instructions on fun and engaging art projects that each include a supplies list. Palmer provides the following poinsettia activity that accompanies this story. [https://www.deepspacesparkle.com/paper-plate-poinsettia-holiday-craft-for-kids/](https://www.deepspacesparkle.com/paper-plate-poinsettia-holiday-craft-for-kids/)

- Scholastic also provides an art activity that has students use Georgia O'Keefe's approach to painting flowers to paint poinsettias. [https://www.scholastic.com/teachers/articles/teaching-content/painting-poinsettias-holiday-art-project/](https://www.scholastic.com/teachers/articles/teaching-content/painting-poinsettias-holiday-art-project/)
FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE POINSETTIA

What is... FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE?

When words mean something other than their LITERAL meaning:

- **SIMILE**: A comparison of two unlike things using LIKE or AS. Example: My brothers are as loud as symbols clanging together.
- **METAPHOR**: A comparison of two unlike things that say one thing is another. Example: The new baby was a bundle of joy.
- **HYPERBOLE**: An EXAGGERATION that can't possibly be true. Example: It felt as if I had walked a million miles to school.
- **PERSONIFICATION**: Giving human qualities to nonhuman things. Example: The morning sun smiled down on me as I walked to the bus.
- **ALLITERATION**: The repetition of the same initial consonant sound. Example: He helped her hurt head heal.
- **ONOMATOPOEIA**: Words whose sounds suggest their meaning. Example: A snowball WHOOSHED past my ear during the snowball fight.
- **IDIOM**: A group of words whose meaning isn't understood from their literal meaning. Example: After we won the soccer game, my team was on cloud 9.
- **ALLUSION**: A reference to a famous person, place, or event. Example: The gold medal winner was a Cinderella Story.
- **OXYMORON**: A phrase whose words contradict each other with opposite meanings. Example: The old green couch was really pretty ugly.

Lucida's flowers were as red as rubies.
POINSETTIA
STENCIL

Fifi's Poinsettia craft
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Submit requests to use our materials for up to 1 month. The full list of our book sets and mixed, thematic sets is on our blog: https://teachinglatinamericathroughliterature.wordpress.com/
La leyenda de la flor de Nochebuena

por: Tomie dePaola
ACTFL STANDARDS ADDRESSED

**Communication**

Interpretive:
- Students will practice the interpretive mode of communication by listening to the story being told in Spanish.

Presentational:
- In the Figurative Language Poinsettia activity, students will practice the presentational mode of communication in Spanish and ways to express themselves using creative writing techniques related to the text.

**Cultures**

Relating Cultural Practices to Perspectives:
- This text is based on a popular Mexican *leyenda* about the origin of *la flor de Nochebuena* (the poinsettia). From this text, students will gain insight into cultural practices for Christmas and their history.

**Communities**

Lifelong Learning:
- By incorporating cultural practices with a listening and writing activity, students will have the opportunity to engage with a cultural tradition in a Spanish-speaking country, which will lead to future interest in this region and studying the target language.
ANTES DE LEER:

• ¿Qué sabes sobre la flor de Nochebuena?
• ¿Cuándo la sueles ver?
• ¿Dónde la sueles ver?
• ¿Con qué relacionas esta flor?
La Leyenda de la Flor de Nochebuena

recontada e ilustrada por Tomie dePaola
La leyenda de la flor de Nochebuena- Spanish

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8H7_IPzPmzQ
PREGUNTAS DE COMPRENSIÓN

1. ¿Dónde toma lugar el cuento?
2. ¿Qué hacían todos los días Lucida y su familia?
3. ¿Por qué se esconde Lucida cuando todos se van a la iglesia?
4. ¿Por qué decide hacer la manta la mamá de Lucida?
5. ¿Qué harías tú si estuvieras en la misma situación como Lucida y tu mamá estuviera enferma, y no pudiera acabar la manta?
6. Haz una comparación entre lo que hacen tú y tu familia para la Nochebuena o para Navidad y qué hicieron Lucida y su familia. ¿Qué es similar y qué es diferente?
EL ORIGEN DE LA FLOR DE NOCHEBUENA
LAS SIGUIENTES ACTIVIDADES ESTÁN EN INGLÉS, PERO ¡SERÍA FÁCIL INTEGRARLAS EN UNA CLASE HISPANOHABLANTE!

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FLOR DE NOCHEBUENA
USANDO LENGUAJE FIGURADO

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lenguaje Figurado</th>
<th>Ejemplos</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Onomatopeía</strong></td>
<td>¡Zzzz! ¡Pow! ¡Cataplan!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Metafora</strong></td>
<td>Dientes de perla: Tu eres mi ángel guardian.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>José es que el pagaso de la clase.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Su pelo es negro de la noche.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Alteración</strong></td>
<td>Carlos Conejo canta: Mi gato se ríe de mí.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Los árboles bailan en el viento.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>La estrella bonita sonríe.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Personificación</strong></td>
<td>Mi gato se ríe de mí.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Los árboles bailan en el viento.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>La estrella bonita sonríe.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Símil</strong></td>
<td>Feliz como un lombriz.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Pedro era tenso como una mula.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Cuando me besó el niño, me puse roja como un tomate.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Las flores de Lucía son brillantes como el sol.

La luz de las velas bailaba por la iglesia.

Simil:

La luna, la luna, la luna.

La luna, la luna, la luna.
STENCIL DE LA FLOR DE NOCHEBUENA
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