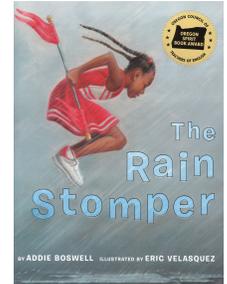


DRAWING ACTIVITY for The Rain Stomper

30-45 minutes, best suited for preK-2nd grade

Learning outcome: Discuss different emotions, and how to deal with frustration and anger. Learn how art portrays different emotions.

About *The Rain Stomper*: I wrote the first draft of this book when I was staying in a run-down apartment in Washington, D.C. It was raining. The skies were gray and the buildings were gray and the newspapers turned to mush and the mush filled up the gutters. We all got wet waiting for the bus, and the whole city seemed grumpy. Then I noticed that the walls of my room were leaking, and the carpet was getting wet. So I moved my boxes into the center of the room and sat down on the floor. Now I was not only grumpy, I was starting to feel frustrated. In this state of mind, I pulled out my journal and scribbled the story that became *The Rain Stomper*.



Reading: Before reading the book, ask the students to watch carefully for different emotions in the book.

Discussion: Ask the students what different emotions they noticed in the book, and how the words and pictures helped show that emotion. Examples: angry poses are shown with dark colors, big words, horizontal lines. Happier pictures have bright colors and rounded shapes.

Talk about Frustration: Do you know what it means to feel frustrated? Can you think of a time you felt this way? What was it that made you feel frustrated? What did Jazmin do to make herself feel better? What do you do to make yourself feel better?

Activity: Instruct the children to make the two most important parts of a book: The beginning--where the problem starts, and the end--where the problem is solved. These two pictures can be made in pencil and colored in: they will have different emotions.



•Picture 1: Frustration! Think of something that frustrates you and draw how you felt. Make the picture as angry and frustrated as you can by using colors and lines that look angry. Add sound words if you like.

•Picture 2: Resolution: Think of your special talents and the things that make you happy, and draw yourself performing an action (like singing, playing with friends, reading). Use colors and lines to draw emotion into your happy picture.



Voila! You have all the ingredients for your own story: a problem, a main character, and a resolution. If you have time, you can write the rest of the book!