

Lesson Plan for: **How the Finch Got Its Colors**

Type of story: Folktale

Objectives:

- The students will be able to name and recognize the colors used in the story.
- The students will learn to use a mnemonic to help them recall details.
- The students will improve their vocabulary as they learn color words and bird names.

Procedure:

1. Tell the story of “How the Finch Got Its Color” to the students.
2. Check the students’ comprehension of the story by asking questions about it. Re-tell the story, or have the students read the story a second time.
3. Introduce the colors of the rainbow by teaching the mnemonic ROY G BIV. Red-Orange-Yellow...Green...Blue-Indigo-Violet. Reading teachers may find it helpful to work with the science teacher on this concept as part of a study on light. Note – the colors of the birds are introduced in the story in the same order as the colors in the rainbow. (Exceptions are the colors indigo and violet. Dr. Lockett prefers to keep the limit the number of characters in a story to make it easier for developing learners to remember his adaptations of stories.)
4. Give the students black-line pictures of the birds in the story to color. Help the students to name and label each bird. (Play a matching game to test recall.)
5. Help the students to write out, draw or map out the sequence for the story.
6. Ask the students to review the story with partners or in small groups and make their own notes on their storyboard as they do this to help them recall the story.
7. Encourage the students to re-tell the story to one another or to the whole class.

Social Studies Extensions – This story originated in Flanders. Find Flanders on the map. Talk about how the names of countries can be different from what the people are called. ie – People in Flanders are Flemish. People in America are Americans. People from England are English. People from China are Chinese. People from the Netherlands are called Dutch. This is a difficult concept. But, it is a good one to introduce through the use of folktales.

Science Extension – Use this folktale to facilitate a study of light. Use a prism to split light and show students the color spectrum. (colors of the rainbow) Concepts to be taught – All colors can be found in white light.

Science Extension – Use this story as an opening activity for a study of birds or for a study of the colors of any animal. The story opens by talking about animals that walk the earth, fish that swim in the water and birds that fly.

Language Arts/Reading Extension – Encourage the students to read other books that include color words in them. Samples include: A Color of his Own, One Fish Two Fish..., Brown Bear, Brown Bear, and Where is the Green Sheep? There are many books to choose from.

Language Arts/Writing Extension – Try to add a different bird into the sequence of the story. What would the bird be? Find other colorful comparisons into the story – Red like an Apple...

Art Extension – Make a color wheel and talk about how to mix and blend colors.