


Lesson: Creating a River Soundscape

Objective: Students read *A River Ran Wild* and re-tell the story using a soundscape.

Materials: Large piece of fabric
 Assorted percussion instruments 
 Sound sources from the classroom
 Construction paper
A River Ran Wild by Lynne Cherry

Procedure:

I. Reading and Representing

- ◆ Place a large piece of fabric (or butcher paper) on the floor in an open area of the classroom. Set out construction paper and percussion instruments on a nearby table.
- ◆ Read the first six pages of text in *A River Ran Wild*.
- ◆ Ask students to visualize something in the river that is described in the story. Without speaking, students tear construction paper into a shape to represent what they are thinking of (a beaver, fish, turtle, sand, etc.).
- ◆ Place the torn items on the fabric.
- ◆ Show students the assortment of percussion instruments. Point out other sound sources around the classroom (things that can be tapped or shaken). Ask students to find some sound to represent the item they have placed on the fabric.
- ◆ Have a student “conduct” the soundscape by moving a stick (or ruler) over the arrangements on the fabric. Students play their instruments as the stick passes over.

