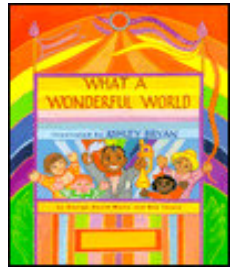


What a Wonderful World

by George David Weiss and Bob Thiele



Things to get ready:

Tape recording of What a Wonderful World and tape player
Tag board
Tongue depressors and crayons and/or markers

Getting the children ready to listen:

Have the children sit in a group in front of you. Be sure everyone can see. Begin with an opening finger play of your choice:

For example: Sometimes my hands are at my side
and then behind my back they hide.
Sometimes my fingers wiggle so.
I shake them fast-
I shake them slow.
Sometimes my hands go clap, clap, clap.
And then I put them in my lap
(*Whisper*) But now they're quiet as can
be because it's story time you see.

Read Aloud Guide

Before you read the book:

Show children the cover and read the title. Also point out the author and the illustrator. Tell the children that they will hear these words several times in the story and they are welcome to say (or sing) them with you every time they hear them. Show a few pages and ask children what they see. Say: “Now let’s listen to what the author tells us he sees.”

During reading:

Read (or sing if you know the tune) each page slowly, pointing to the pictures that go with the words you’re reading.
Remind children to chime in when they hear-”What a wonderful world.”
Play the tape of Louis Armstrong singing “What A Wonderful World”. Show the pictures and run your fingers under the words as you read them.

After reading:

What did you notice about Louis Armstrong’s voice?
How is it different than our voices?
What kinds of things did the author say makes a wonderful world?
What are some things that make your world wonderful?

Extension Activity

On a piece of tagboard, with bright colored markers, draw a picture of something that makes your world wonderful. Have each child do the same. Glue a tongue depressor to the back. On the back or underneath the picture write the word(s) for what the child has drawn. Sing the song replacing the lyrics with the “wonderful things” they have drawn. Have each child stand and hold his/her picture using the tongue depressor, when they hear the words for their picture. These can be hung on a wall or clothesline around the language arts center. Put the words “Our Wonderful World” above the display. Leave the book and tape in the center. During center time, some children can listen to the tape as they look through the book.

Related Books

We All Sing in the Same Voice

By J. Phillip Miller

My Favorite Things

By Richard Rogers

Whoever You Are

By Mem Fox

All the Colors of the Earth

By Sheila Hamanaka

This Land is Your Land

By Woody Guthrie