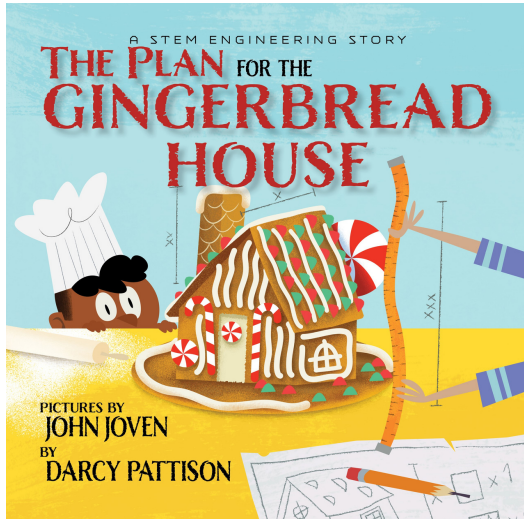

Lesson Plan for

The Plan for the Gingerbread House

a picture book written by Darcy Pattison & illustrated by John Joven



Children's book author and indie publisher **Darcy Pattison** writes award-winning fiction and non-fiction books for children. Her works have received starred PW, Kirkus, and BCCB reviews. Awards include the Irma Black Honor award, five NSTA Outstanding Science Trade Books, Eureka! Nonfiction Honor book, two Junior Library Guild selections, two NCTE Notable Children's Book in Language Arts, and a 2021 Notable Social Studies Trade Books. She's the 2007 recipient of the Arkansas Governor's Arts Award for Individual Artist for her work in children's literature.

The illustrator, **John Joven**, is from Columbia, and he worked to create a diverse cast of characters. This is his second collaboration with author, Darcy Pattison. Their first book together, *A LITTLE BIT OF DINOSAUR*, received a starred Kirkus review.



ELA

Elements of Poetry

1. Theme

- Discussion & Writing Assignment *Resilience, Facing Challenges, Taking Risks & Finding Success*

2. Rhyme

- Find the Rhyming words in *The Plan for the Gingerbread House*



Math

1. Shop for Supplies

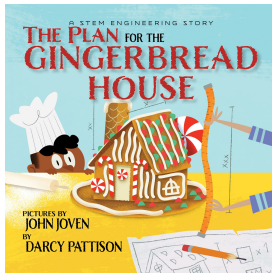
- Adding/Subtracting
- Money
- Budgeting & Planning



STEM Challenge

Engineering

1. Use the Design Process to plan and build a gingerbread house



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ELA

Focus on an Element of Writing - THEME

Discussion & Writing Topic *Resiliency: Facing Challenges, Taking Risks & Finding Success*

PROJECT AND PURPOSE

After reading *The Plan for the Gingerbread House*, students will be able to identify the theme of the story as resilience. They will also be able to define resiliency and write a grade level appropriate narrative essay about a challenge they have faced with resilience.



OBJECTIVES

Students will:

- Explain what "Theme" is
- Identify the theme of the book *The Plan for the Gingerbread House*
- Define resilience
- Identify points in story where characters displayed resilience

MATERIALS

- Copy of *The Plan for the Gingerbread House* by Darcy Pattison
- Worksheets on Theme, Prewriting Exercises (sensory details, timeline, additional notes and Essay Writing)

PROCEDURE

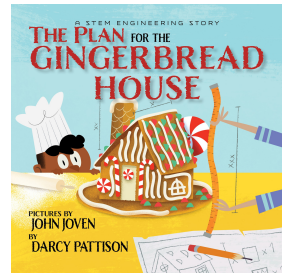
Discuss Theme as an Element of Writing. Theme can be defined as the main lesson or message the author is trying to convey. The author won't necessarily come out and say the theme, so it is often up to the reader to look for the clues and draw a conclusion to identify the theme.

ACTIVITY

Read the book *The Plan for the Gingerbread House* once through for the story. Then read it a second time to search for clues to the theme. Use the accompanying worksheet to record clues, the page you found it on and come to a conclusion.

Themes for *The Plan for the Gingerbread House* include: Resiliency: Facing Challenges, Taking Risks, Perseverance and Finding Success in Failures

Theme is the main idea or the message the author wrote about. Read *The Plan for the Gingerbread House* and use the clues in the text to find the theme of the story. What do you think the author wanted to say to the reader?



THEME



CLUE #1

FROM PAGE # _____



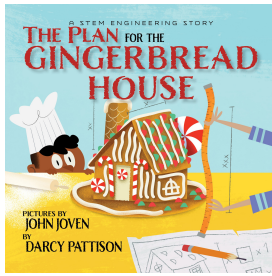
CLUE #2

FROM PAGE # _____



CLUE #3

FROM PAGE # _____



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Discuss: Why do some people/children succeed despite tremendous odds against them? Resiliency. What does resiliency mean?

Resiliency is the ability to recover from setbacks, frustrations and failures. People who are resilient are able to adapt to change, face challenges and handle stress in a calm, focused manner. They think through challenges and look for solutions. The Mayo Clinic says "Resiliency is the ability to become strong, healthy or successful again after something bad happens. It can turn victims into survivors and enable survivors to become successful."

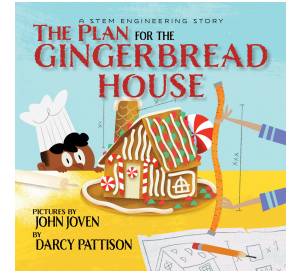
1. In the book *The Plan for the Gingerbread House*, the students face several challenges in trying to work together to make the gingerbread house for the competition. Read the book, and try to find all of the things that go wrong.
2. Next, discuss how the characters in the book showed *resiliency* towards the obstacles they had to overcome to find success.
3. Ask students: What do you think the characters in the book said to themselves - and to each other - to keep going with the marvelous plan that had so many hiccups? What might you have said to yourself to keep going?
4. Was there a time you didn't handle a challenge well and didn't succeed? Looking back, can you think of two or three things you could have done differently to find a solution?
5. Can you think of a time someone has spoken encouraging words to you during a difficult time? What did they say that you found helpful? What can you learn from that person that you can use for yourself and others during a challenge?

ACTIVITY

Write a narrative essay about a challenge you faced and how you solved it successfully. Use the prewriting worksheets included to strengthen and plan essays.

Narrative Essay Planner : Sensory Details

What did you actually experience? Complete the sensory detail worksheet before beginning your essay. This will give you a rich word bank to draw from when you are writing your story. Note: you won't use every detail but this exercise will strengthen your writing.



SEE

HEAR

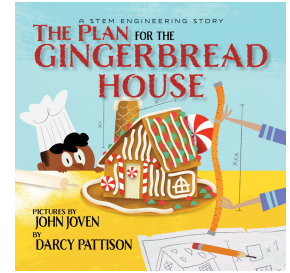
FEEL
(TEMPERATURE,
TEXTURE,
NOT EMOTIONS)

SMELL

TASTE

Narrative Essay Planner : Timeline

A good story has a structured, easy to follow timeline. Use this timeline to organize your thoughts before you begin to write your story. You can think about it like a map of how the story unfolds. You may not use all of the boxes.



FIRST

NEXT

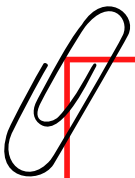
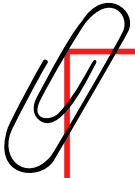
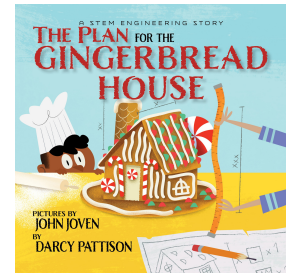
AFTER THAT

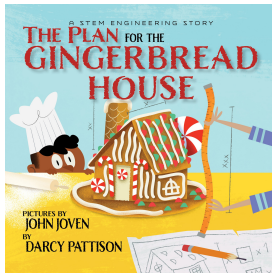
ALSO

FINALLY

Narrative Essay Planner : Additional Notes

Use this page to record any other ideas for your narrative essay that you don't want to miss when you are writing.





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Focus on an Element of Poetry - Rhyme

PROJECT AND PURPOSE

After reading *The Plan for the Gingerbread House*, students will learn and practice rhyming words.

OBJECTIVES Students will:

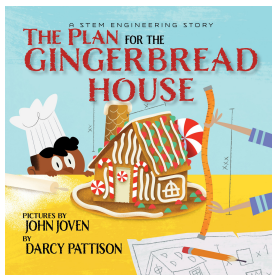
- Define what Rhyming Words are
- Identify rhyming words in the text of *The Plan for the Gingerbread House*
- List as many additional words that they can think of to rhyme with the rhyming words in the book's text

MATERIALS

- Copy of *The Plan for the Gingerbread House*
- Worksheets on Rhyme

PROCEDURE

Read the book *The Plan for the Gingerbread House* out loud. Have students raise their hand every time they hear a rhyme. Pause to use the accompanying worksheet to record rhyming pairs. Have students come up with as many additional words that rhyme with the pairs as they can. To add to the challenge, set a timer and race to see who can come up with more rhymes.



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Math

Gingerbread Shopping Exercise

PROJECT AND PURPOSE

Students will practice "shopping" for ingredients and decorations for a gingerbread house within a budget.



OBJECTIVES

Students will:

- Add money
- Subtract money
- Make choices

MATERIALS

- Copy of *The Plan for the Gingerbread House*
- Budget Worksheet
- Optional: Take it further with a "Field Trip!"
 - Set up a "store" with ingredients from your pantry (be sure to price) at home OR go to the grocery store with a shopping list and a limited cash budget for your gingerbread house decorations. Hint - bring a calculator to the grocery store to keep a tally on spending, and be sure to let them pay the cashier.

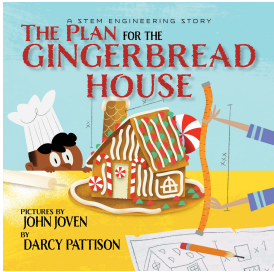
PROCEDURE

Read *The Plan for the Gingerbread House* out loud. Discuss what a budget is with students. A **budget** is a plan for how you will spend money. It is based on the amount of money you have and the cost of the items you either need or want to purchase. Planning a budget helps us live within our means, not overspend, and make good financial choices.

Debt occurs when you spend more money than you have. To avoid debt, we need to make decisions that keep us within our budget. That sometimes means not buying everything we want.



Priorities are the things most important to us. When making choices, we must consider what is most important to our project.

CANDY SHOP

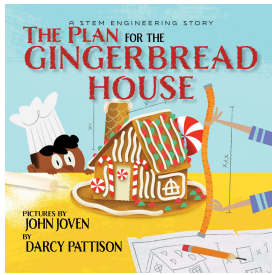


You have a budget of \$8.00 for to buy candy to decorate your gingerbread house. Decide what you want and how many of each. Total the cost for each item, then add to find the total cost of all items.

Were you able to buy everything you wanted? If not, what did you give up and why? Did you have any money left over? How much?

Item Purchased	Cost Per Item (each)	How Many?	Total Cost of item
 Peppermint Rounds	\$0.22		
 Lollipop	\$1.23		
 Licorice (rope)	\$0.55		
 M&Ms	\$0.05		
 Candy Cane	\$0.99		
 Mini Marshmallows	\$0.11		

Total Cost for all:



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Engineering Challenge

Build Your Gingerbread House

It's time to put your engineer hat on and construct that delicious gingerbread house! But, just like in the story, your creation must meet 2 STEM criteria:

1. A gingerbread boy and a gingerbread girl must fit inside
2. Your house must stand on it's own, and not fall on it's side

PROJECT AND PURPOSE

Students will have the opportunity to create a gingerbread house that must meet criteria. They will have the opportunity to face and solve challenges,

OBJECTIVES

Students will:

- List the steps Engineers use in the Design Process
- Use the Design Process to create a Gingerbread House that meets the criteria
- Find solutions to problems as they arise

MATERIALS

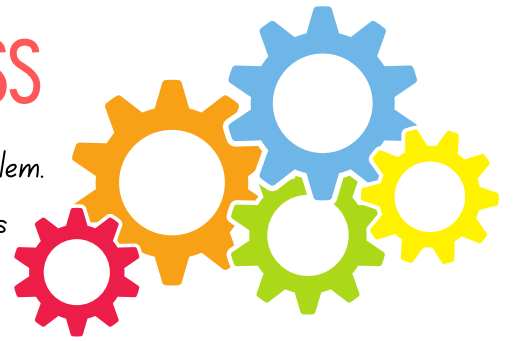
- Copy of *The Plan for the Gingerbread House*
- Recipe for Royal Icing
- Recipe for Gingerbread (OR...this can be done with graham crackers and mini graham figures)
- All ingredients from recipe, including cookware
- A cardboard or other base to hold your construction

PROCEDURE

Read *The Plan for the Gingerbread House* out loud. Review the Design Process with your students. Using the *Worksheet*, students will plan their project using the Design Process and will build a gingerbread house that meets the criteria. They will use the Design Process to evaluate their creation and to suggest improvements for next time.

THE DESIGN PROCESS

The Design Process is a set of steps engineers use to solve a problem. It is an open-ended process meaning you can keep repeating steps until you find a good solution that really works.



ASK: What is the problem you are trying to solve? Why is it important? What requirements and/or limitations are there?

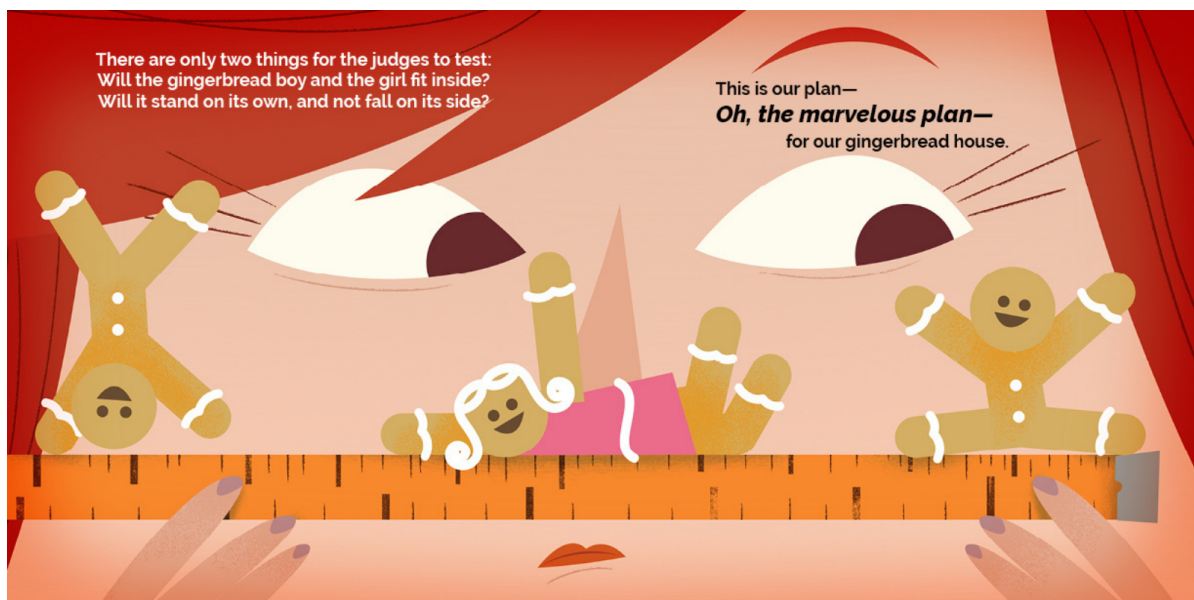
Imagine: Brainstorm! List all of the possible solutions you can think of, and don't worry about whether you think they will work in this step.

Plan: Keeping the needs, requirements and limitations in mind, circle your best ideas. Narrow down your ideas to form the plan you think will work best. Choose one solution you think will work best and make a plan. Draw a diagram of your plan and list out the materials you will use.

Create: Follow your plan!

Test: Did your plan work? Did it meet the criteria and solve the need? What worked? What didn't work?

Improve: What could you do to improve your design for next time?



Name _____

READY...SET...ENGINEER!



It's time to construct that delicious gingerbread house! But, just like in the story, your creation must meet two criteria to be successful:

1. A gingerbread boy and a gingerbread girl must fit inside
2. Your house must stand on its own, and not fall on its side

Use the Design Process as a guide to create your marvelous plan for the gingerbread house.

1

ASK: What is the problem?

2

Imagine: Brainstorm ideas.

3

Plan: What will you do?

4

Create: Follow your plan and build your house.

5

Test:

1. Does it stand on its own? _____
2. Do the gingerbread girl and boy fit inside? _____

6

Improve: What worked well? What didn't? What could you try next time to make it work better?



1-2-3 ROYAL ICING

The icing should be very thick to glue the house together. After all gluing is complete, you can add about 1 teaspoon of water at a time (a spray bottle works great for a light touch) to thin the icing to your desired consistency for non-gluing decorating.

INGREDIENTS

- 4 cups powdered sugar
- 1/2 teaspoon cream of tartar
- 3 large egg whites, beaten (pasteurized)
- Various food colors

PREP TIME

- Prep | 10 m
- Cook | 0 m

TIPS

- If you need to thicken, add powdered sugar in 1/2 cup increments
- Royal icing hardens quickly so cover immediately

PROCEDURE

01

Whisk the powdered sugar and cream of tartar together in a mixing bowl.

02

Beat in the egg whites with a mixer. Beat until stiff peaks form. This will take at least 5 minutes. It should be thick but not lumpy when done.

03

Portion and separate into different bowls and immediately cover so it won't harden. Add drops of food coloring to each bowl to make desired icing colors for decorating.



GINGERBREAD RECIPE

The recipe for your PLAN for the Gingerbread House: A STEM Engineering experience!

INGREDIENTS

5 cups all-purpose flour
1 teaspoon baking soda
3 teaspoons ground ginger
1 teaspoon nutmeg
1 teaspoon cinnamon
1 teaspoon kosher salt
Nonstick cooking spray, for greasing
1 cup vegetable shortening
1 cup granulated sugar
1 cup molasses

PREP TIME

- Prep | 25 - 30 m
- Cook | 12-15 m
- Ready in | 45 m

PROCEDURE

- 01** Preheat the oven to 350°F (180°C). Line baking sheet(s) with parchment paper.
- 02** In a large bowl, sift together the flour, baking soda, ginger, nutmeg, cinnamon, and salt. Set aside.
- 03** Grease the bottom and sides of a Dutch oven or other heavy-bottomed pot with nonstick spray. Melt shortening in the greased pot over medium heat. Add the molasses and sugar, bring to a boil, then turn off the heat.
- 04** Gradually stir in 4 cups of the flour mixture, 1 cup at a time. Be sure to fully incorporate each addition before adding more. There will be some of the flour mixture left over.



GINGERBREAD RECIPE

The recipe for your PLAN for the Gingerbread House: A STEM Engineering experience!

PROCEDURE

05 Dust your work surface with left over flour mixture. Turn the dough out onto the floured surface and work in the flour mixture. Some flour mixture may be left over. Dough should not be too crumbly.

06 Shape dough into a 12-inch log and cut into 2-3 portions for rolling. Keep one portion out, set the rest in the warm (not hot) pot covered with plastic wrap with the lid on. Dough is easier to work while it's warm. If it hardens, microwave for about 30 seconds to soften.

07 On the floured surface, roll out one piece of dough at a time into a $\frac{1}{8}$ -inch thick rectangle. Cut with cookie cutters or printed template as a guide. Repeat rolling with remaining dough, cutting all remaining sides of the house and other decorations.

08 Bake for 12-15 minutes, until hardened. Let cool completely.

09 Assemble the gingerbread house with the royal icing.

TIPS:

- Free Gingerbread House templates are available at: www.temploola.com/gingerbread-house-templates/
- Use crushed hard candies to create a colorful stained-glass window effect.
- Before baking the dough, set it in the freezer for about 15 minutes to help prevent it from spreading while in the oven.
- Use additional icing on the inside of the house structure to hold together.