

PRE-SCHOOL TO K-2 RESOURCES

BAXTER'S CORNER BOOKS

LESSON PLAN (1 hour)

"What A Tree It Will Be!"

When friends find the secret to decorating their tree with cooperation and teamwork, what a tree it will be!

Author L.S.V. Baker

Summary The students in Mr. McBoom's class use their unique talents to create a marvelous Christmas tree and learn that giving their best is the best gift of the season. Through imaginative verse and vibrant illustrations, children learn **cooperation**.

Materials & Resources

1. *What a Tree It Will Be!* story book
2. One large paper
3. Kid-friendly paint
4. Paintbrushes
5. Markers and/or crayons
6. Puppet (optional or make your own)

Implementation Time: 30 minutes

Learning Context

Baxter's Corner Engagement Tip:

Create excitement throughout the week leading up to the event by planting clues about the characters and the mystery reader(s).

Procedures

- **Before Reading**
Conversational questioning: Ask "Have you ever played a sport like soccer alone against a full team?" Next, set the purpose: "When you do it alone you what happens? What happens when others participate? Many things happen when working together in cooperation." Talk about the power of more than one participant.
- **During Reading** (*Pretend the puppet is reading*)
Think Aloud: As you read, pause to talk about things you notice on several pages. For example, "I'm wondering what Mr. McBoom means when he asks, "can you make the tree stronger from page 12?"
- **After Reading**
Check for Understanding: Use the *GoBeyond* section after the story to ask questions about the story on pages 37-38 and prepare for the activity below.

Activity Time: 20 minutes (*page 46-48*)

As a group, determine a subject to paint. Have an adult sketch it on the large paper. Taking turns allow each child to add their own creative addition to the artwork. Make sure everyone signs the piece or adds their handprint to the picture. Our sample is on pages 46-48. Be sure to take a group picture. (*Having a sink and cleaning materials close by is recommended for this activity.*)

Share-Out Time: 10 minutes

Give each student the opportunity to share about what they added to the artwork.

Reread this story in several weeks or months using different questions and activities from pages 34 to 49.

