

# #10075 MISS NELSON IS BACK

WESTON WOODS STUDIOS, 1999  
Grade Level: K-3  
13 mins.

## DESCRIPTION

While Miss Nelson is out having her tonsils removed, Principal Blandsworth takes over her class. The kids get bored and decide to create a fake Miss Nelson. That plan works well until Viola Swamp, the meanest substitute teacher in the world, appears. Based on the book by Harry G. Allard, illustrated by James Marshall.

## ACADEMIC STANDARDS

### Subject Area: Civics—What is Government and What Should it Do?

- Standard: Understands ideas about civic life, politics, and government
  - ♦ Benchmark: Knows various people and groups who make, apply, and enforce rules and laws for others (e.g., adult family members, teachers, city councils, governors, tribal governments, national governments) and who manage disputes about rules and laws (e.g., courts at all levels) (See INSTRUCTIONAL GOALS 1 and 2.)

### Subject Area: Behavioral Studies

- Standard: Applies basic trouble-shooting and problem-solving techniques
  - ♦ Benchmark: Identifies simple problems and possible solutions (e.g., ways to make something work better) (See INSTRUCTIONAL GOALS 3.)

### Subject Area: Language Arts—Reading

- Standard: Uses reading skills and strategies to understand and interpret a variety of literary texts
  - ♦ Benchmark: Uses reading skills and strategies to understand a variety of familiar literary passages and texts (e.g., fairy tales, folktales, fiction, nonfiction, legends, fables, myths, poems, nursery rhymes, picture books, predictable books) (See INSTRUCTIONAL GOALS 4 and 5.)

## C a p t i o n e d M e d i a P r o g r a m

- ◆ Benchmark: Knows setting, main characters, main events, sequence, and problems in stories (See INSTRUCTIONAL GOALS 4 and 5.)
- ◆ Benchmark: Makes simple inferences regarding the order of events and possible outcomes (See INSTRUCTIONAL GOALS 5.)
- ◆ Benchmark: Knows the main ideas or theme of a story (See INSTRUCTIONAL GOALS 4.)

### INSTRUCTIONAL GOALS

1. To explore feelings about school.
2. To illustrate substitute teacher issues.
3. To investigate problem-solving techniques.
4. To show the story from the book *Miss Nelson is Back* and examine the plot.
5. To make predictions about *Miss Nelson is Back* before and during the viewing of the video and then confirm and/or revise them by the end of the viewing.

### VOCABULARY

- |               |                  |                |
|---------------|------------------|----------------|
| 1. act up     | 6. hatch a plot  | 11. principal  |
| 2. afternoon  | 7. impersonating | 12. substitute |
| 3. behave     | 8. knob          | 13. teacher    |
| 4. class      | 9. morning       |                |
| 5. get rid of | 10. nervous      |                |

### BEFORE SHOWING

1. Show the cover and title of the video or book *Miss Nelson is Back*.
  - a. Discuss who Miss Nelson might be.
  - b. Guess why Miss Nelson was gone and why she is back.
  - c. Discuss what the problem might be in the story. Predict what might happen at the school.
2. Discuss substitute teachers. Draw a picture of both a nice and a not nice substitute teacher. Describe the drawings. Discuss the differences between the two teachers.
  - a. What kinds of things would you like a substitute to do with you?
  - b. What kind of personality would you like a substitute to have?
  - c. What things could you do to help a substitute teacher feel welcome?

### DURING SHOWING

1. View the video more than once, with one showing uninterrupted.
2. Pause the video before the substitute teacher enters the room on Monday morning. Predict who is at the door.
3. Pause the video while the students in the story are working on their plot to get rid of the principal. Discuss what their plot might be.
4. Pause the video before the fake Miss Nelson enters the room. Predict who is at the door.

## AFTER SHOWING

### Discussion Items and Questions

1. Why was Miss Nelson going to be away from school? What did she expect from the students while she was going to be gone? How did the students react?
2. At recess, who did the big kid warn the students about? How did Miss Nelson's students respond to the warning?
3. Who taught the class on Monday? What did Mr. Blandsworth do in the morning? In the afternoon? What was the class's reaction?
4. Who substituted on Tuesday? What did Mr. Blandsworth do? What did he do for the next two days? What was the class's response? How could he have made class more exciting?
5. Describe the "plot" that the students hatched. Why did the plot involve painting, sewing, old clothes, and stunt work?
6. Describe how the fake Miss Nelson looked and walked. Explain why the other students laughed and answered for her.
7. What did the students do at ten o'clock? Where did they go?
8. What mistake did the students make on the way back to school? What did the real Miss Nelson do when she saw the class go by? What was Mr. Blandsworth's response?
9. Describe what the students were doing that afternoon in class.
10. What happened when Viola Swamp took over the classroom? How did the students feel? How did Viola Swamp figure out the students' plot?
11. Why did Mr. Blandsworth come back to the classroom? Why did he think Viola Swamp was Miss Nelson? What was Viola Swamp's response to the principal? Why was that nice?
12. What happened after Viola Swamp left the classroom? How did the students feel when Miss Nelson came in the room? What did the kids keep a secret about?
13. Who was Viola Swamp? Why did Miss Nelson become Viola Swamp? Was this a good way to solve the problem with her class?

### Applications and Activities

1. Review the predictions that were made before and during the story. Revise or confirm them.
2. Read the book, *Miss Nelson is Back*, by Harry Allard. Discuss how the characters felt at various points in the story.
3. Discuss the various characters from the story. Make a paper plate mask of a favorite character using markers, felt, yarn, etc. Model the masks. Guess who the masks represent.
4. Using a variety of scrap material, make disguises. Locate old unwanted clothes, and allow students to dress up with their disguises.
5. Recall Mr. Blandsworth's pen collection from the story. Discuss collections. Describe personal collections. Have a "show-and-tell" of various collections.
6. Discuss feelings about what Miss Nelson did to the class when she saw them out of school.

## C a p t i o n e d M e d i a P r o g r a m

- a. What else could Miss Nelson have done to stop what was going on in her class?
  - b. What would you have done if you were Miss Nelson?
  - c. Do you think the children will ever try to dress up as Miss Nelson again? Why or why not?
7. Read other books about teachers and substitute teachers.
- a. *The Teacher from the Black Lagoon* by Mike Thaler.
  - b. *The Substitute Teacher* by Cathy East Dubowski.
  - c. *Swamp Monsters* by Mary Christian.
  - d. *Substitute Teacher Plans* by Doug Johnson.
  - e. *Jamaica and the Substitute Teacher* by Juanita Havill.
  - f. *The Bird is the Word* by Stephanie Spinner.
  - g. *Mr. Rover Takes Over* by Grace MacCarone.
8. Investigate tonsils.
- a. Where are *tonsils*?
  - b. What are tonsils for?
  - c. Why do people have their tonsils taken out?
  - d. How old are most people who have their tonsils taken out?
  - e. How long does it usually take people to get well after having their tonsils taken out?

### SUMMARY

When Miss Nelson leaves to have her tonsils removed, the kids in Room 207 prepare to “act up.” Warned about the mean substitute Viola Warned, they create a Miss Nelson look-alike to get rid of boring Mr. Blandsworth, the principal, until the real “Swamp” shows up to set things straight.

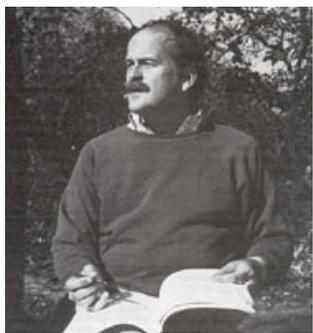
### RELATED RESOURCES

- [Miss Nelson Has a Field Day #10074](#)
- [The Teacher from the Black Lagoon #10100](#)

### World Wide Web



The following Web sites complement the contents of this guide; they were selected by professionals who have experience in teaching deaf and hard of hearing students. Every effort was made to select accurate, educationally relevant, and “kid safe” sites. However, teachers should preview them before use. The U.S. Department of Education, the National Association of the Deaf, and the Captioned Media Program do not endorse the sites and are not responsible for their content.



- **JAMES MARSHALL BIOGRAPHY**

Includes several links to biographical information about James Marshall, the illustrator of *Miss Nelson is Back*.

[http://www.yourlibrary.ws/childrens\\_webpage/e-author102001.htm](http://www.yourlibrary.ws/childrens_webpage/e-author102001.htm)

- **TONSILS AND TONSILLITIS**

<http://kidshealth.org/parent/system/surgical/tonsil.html>

Find out more about tonsils and tonsillitis. Written for parents, this information is clear and easy to understand with several words hotlinked to additional information.



- **HAVING YOUR TONSILS OUT**

[http://kidshealth.org/kid/feel\\_better/things/tonsils\\_out.html](http://kidshealth.org/kid/feel_better/things/tonsils_out.html)

This articles explains to kids what happens when they have their tonsils taken out.

