

MANY MOONS



CFE 3268V

OPEN CAPTIONED
SOCIETY FOR VISUAL
EDUCATION

1995

Grade Levels: 4-8

10 minutes

1 Instructional Graphic Enclosed

DESCRIPTION

Princess Lenore falls ill and wants the moon in order to be well again. After the King's councilors fail to figure a way to get it for her, the Court Jester realizes the Princess has the answer. Based on the Caldecott award-winning book by James Thurber. Animated.

INSTRUCTIONAL GOALS

- To motivate reading James Thurber's works.
- To depict people's different perspectives and various ways of problem solving.
- To illustrate that sometimes the answer to a complicated problem is very simple.

BEFORE SHOWING

1. Read the CAPTION SCRIPT to determine unfamiliar vocabulary and language concepts.
2. Discuss *perspective* and demonstrate with water.
 - a. Pour the same amount of water into a variety of containers of different sizes.
 - b. Determine which container holds the most water.
 - c. Pour into measuring cups. Pour back into original containers and discuss.
3. Hide a small ball in a big box.
 - a. Guess the size of the ball and draw it on the chalkboard.
 - b. Open the box and compare the ball with the drawings. Discuss the deceptive size of the box.
4. Create a web of perceptions of the moon, including size, distance, and materials.
5. Explain that the Princess is very ill and that she requests she be given the moon in order to recover.
 - a. Discuss the absurdity of this request.
 - b. Generate ways of getting the moon.
 - c. Watch for the solution in the video.

DURING SHOWING

1. View the video more than once, with one showing uninterrupted.
2. Pause to review the past accomplishments of each wise man.
3. Pause to emphasize that the King did not ask the Court Jester for help. Discuss stereotypes.
4. Pause as the Princess compares the size of the moon to her thumbnail. Demonstrate.
5. Pause to discuss the second problem. Generate a list of solutions for hiding the moon. Compare these solutions with the solution in the video.

AFTER SHOWING

Discussion Items and Questions

1. Practice new vocabulary using all appropriate modes of communication.
2. Discuss the surprise ending.
 - a. Identify the two problems and problem solvers.
 - b. Discuss the simplistic, yet effective, solutions.
3. Using a graphic organizer, summarize the story.
4. List each character's perspective of the moon.
(See INSTRUCTIONAL GRAPHICS.)
5. List each wise man's solution for hiding the moon in the sky and the king's reactions.
6. The wise men were able to do many impossible things. List them. Describe why they couldn't get the moon.
7. Summarize the Princess's explanation for the two moons and discuss its plausibility.
8. Discuss the appropriateness of the title from the Princess's perspective.
9. Discuss why the Court Jester and the Princess were not thought capable of solving the problems.
10. Review the lists of things the wise men obtained for the King at other times.
 - a. Categorize the lists as either *reality* or *fantasy*.

- b. Discuss how the mixture of real and fantastic times adds color and texture to the tale.

Applications and Activities

1. Read the book by James Thurber, and compare it to the video.
2. To demonstrate different perspectives, use a variety of objects, such as those which are large but light, and small but heavy.
 - a. Without touching, predict their weights.
 - b. After touching and lifting them, compare reactions and discuss.
3. Research optical illusions.
4. Place a multifaceted object in the middle of the room. Assign students to various positions from which they will draw the object.
 - a. Lying on the floor
 - b. Sitting on the floor
 - c. Sitting in a chair
 - d. Standing on a table
 - e. Kneeling nearby
5. Display, compare, and discuss objects drawn from different perspectives. View the video “Honey, I Shrunk the Kids” and its sequels. Discuss the differing perspectives.
6. Create a class book of personal wishes. Include stories and artwork.
7. Research titles and retell other stories in which unlikely characters hold the solutions to unusual problems.
8. Research the titles of wise advisors a king might have. Describe their functions and special clothing they might wear.



INSTRUCTIONAL GRAPHICS

One instructional graphic is included with this lesson guide. It may be enlarged and used to create transparencies or copies.

- PERCEPTIONS OF THE MOON

WEBSITES

Explore the Internet to discover sites related to this topic. Check the CFV website for related information (<http://www.cfv.org>).

CAPTION SCRIPT

Following are the captions as they appear on the video. Teachers are encouraged to read the script prior to viewing the video for pertinent vocabulary, to discover language patterns within the captions, or to determine content for introduction or review. Enlarged copies may be given to students as a language exercise.

Once upon a time, in a kingdom by the sea,	Get it tonight-- tomorrow at the latest.
there lived a little princess named Lenore.	It just happens I have a list of things
She was 10 years old, going on 11.	I have got for you in my time, Your Majesty.
One day, Lenore fell ill.	I've got ivory, apes,
The royal physician came to see her.	peacocks, rubies, opals, emeralds,
The royal physician was worried.	black orchids, pink elephants, blue poodles,
He sent for Lenore's father, the king.	hummingbirds' tongues, angels' feathers,
I want you to get well again.	unicorns' horns, giants, midgets, mermaids,
Is there anything your heart desires?	minstrels, dancing women,
Yes. I want the moon.	a pound of butter, two dozen eggs, and a sack of sugar.
If I can have the moon, I will be well again.	S-s-orry--My wife wrote that in there.
[bell ringing] ding, ding, ding	I don't remember any blue poodles.
Lord High Chamberlain!	It says "blue poodles" here on the list,
I want you to get the moon.	and they are checked off with little check marks,
If the Princess Lenore can have the moon,	so there must have been blue poodles.
she will be well again.	Never mind the blue poodles.
The moon?	
Yes, the moon!	

What I want now is the moon.

But the moon is out of the question, Your Majesty!

It is 35,000 miles away,

and it is bigger than the room the princess lies in.

Furthermore, it is made of molten copper.

I cannot get the moon for you!

Blue poodles, yes. The moon, no.

[bell ringing]

Royal wizard,

I want you to get the moon for the Princess Lenore.

I have worked a great deal of magic for you,

Your Majesty.

Now, let's see...

I have squeezed blood out of turnips for you,

and turnips out of blood.

I have produced rabbits out of silk hats,

and silk hats out of rabbits.

I have conjured up flowers,

tambourines, and doves out of nowhere,

and nowhere out of flowers, tambourines, and doves.

I have given you 7-league boots...

the golden touch, and a cloak of invisibility.

I got horns from Elfland and gold from the rainbow.

What I want you to do now is get me the moon.

The Princess Lenore wants the moon,

and when she gets it, she will be well again.

Impossible! It is 150,000 miles away.

It is made of green cheese,

and it is twice as big as this palace.

Nobody can get the moon.

[bell ringing]

Royal mathematician, I don't want to hear

all the things you have figured out since 1907!

I want you to get the moon for the Princess Lenore.

I'm glad you mentioned the things I have figured out.

I have a list of them.

I have figured out

the distance between the horns of a dilemma.

I have computed how far is up

and what becomes of gone.

I know the price of the priceless

and how many birds you can catch

with the salt in the ocean-- 187,796,123.

I don't want to hear about 700 million imaginary birds!

I want you to get the moon!

But Your Majesty, the moon is
300,000 miles away.

It is round and flat, like a coin,

made of cardboard,

and is half the size of this
kingdom.

It is pasted on the sky. Nobody
can get the moon.

[bell ringing]

What can I do for you, Your
Majesty?

Nobody can do anything for me.

The Princess Lenore needs the
moon,

but nobody can get it for her.

Every time I ask anybody for the
moon,

it gets larger and further away.

They are all wise men, so they
must all be right.

If they are all right,

then the moon must be just as
large and as far away

as each person thinks it is.

The thing to do is find out

how big the Princess Lenore
thinks it is.

I never thought of that.

I will go and ask her, Your
Majesty.

Have you brought the moon to
me?

Not yet, but I will get it for you
right away.

How big do you think it is?

It is just a little smaller than my
thumbnail.

When I hold my thumbnail up at
the moon,

it just covers it.

And how far away is it?

It is not as high as the big tree
outside my window

because sometimes it gets caught
in the top branches.

It will be very easy to get the
moon for you.

I will climb the tree tonight,

when it gets caught in the top
branches,

and bring it to you.

What is the moon made of,
princess?

Oh, it's made of gold, of course,
silly.

Anybody knows that.

(with foreign accent)
What is this thing

that you have asked me to make?

You have made the moon.

But the moon is 500,000 miles
away

and is made of bronze and is
round like a marble.

That's what you think.

[bell ringing]

We must keep the Princess
Lenore

from seeing the moon in the sky
tonight.

Think of something.

I know just the thing.

We can make some dark glasses

for the Princess Lenore,

and then she will not see the
moon

when it shines in the sky.

If she wore dark glasses, she
would bump into things.

She would be ill again.

[bell ringing]

We must hide the real moon from
Princess Lenore.

How are we going to do that?

We can stretch

some black-velvet curtains on
poles,

like a circus tent.

Then Princess Lenore will not
see the moon in the sky.

Curtains would keep out the air

so the Princess Lenore would not
be able to breathe,

and she would be ill again!

We must do something

so Princess Lenore will not see
the moon tonight.

If you know so much, figure out
a way to do that!

We can set off fireworks in the
gardens every night.

We'll make silver fountains and
golden cascades,

and Princess Lenore will not be
able to see the moon.

Fireworks would keep the
Princess Lenore awake!

She would not get any sleep, and
she would be ill again!

Look, the moon is already
shining

into Princess Lenore's bedroom.

Who can explain how the moon
can be in the sky

when it is hanging around her
neck?

Who explained how to get the
moon

when your wise men said

it was too large and far away?

It was Princess Lenore.

She seems to know more about it,

so I will ask her.

Tell me, Princess Lenore--

how can the moon be shining in
the sky

when it is hanging on a golden
chain

around your neck?

That's easy, silly.

When I lose a tooth,

a new one grows in its place.

And when the gardener cuts the
flowers,

other flowers take their place.

Of course! I should have thought of that.

It's the same way with the daylight.

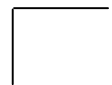
And it is the same way with the moon.

I guess it's the same way with everything.

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PERCEPTIONS OF THE MOON

DIRECTIONS: Fill in the chart with each character's view of the moon. Then, research and fill in the last row.

Characters	Distance	Materials	Size
Lord High Chamberlain			
Royal Wizard			
Royal Mathematician			
Royal Goldsmith			
Princess Lenore			
Scientific Facts			

