

PACE

Sample Lesson Plan

Make Way for Ducklings

by Robert McCloskey

RESPONSIBILITY



DEFINITION: Responsibility: (*noun*) the quality of having a certain duty or obligation; state of being reliable

Adjective: responsible

Synonyms: trustworthiness; reliability; dependability; duty

Antonyms: exemption; immunity; freedom; irresponsibility



May Book of the Month: *Make Way for Ducklings* by Robert McCloskey
Grades K-3

I. Reading Comprehension: Answer the following questions in the spaces below (or out loud):

1. Who are the main characters in this book?

2. What are Mr. and Mrs. Mallard looking for at the beginning of the story?

3. Where (in what city) do the Mallards live?

4. When are the only times that Mrs. Mallard moves off her nest?

5. Why does Michael call the police station?

6. How does Mrs. Mallard travel from her nest on the Charles River to the Public Garden?

II. True | False

Write "T" in the box if the statement is true and "F" if it is false.

◆ Mrs. Mallard is afraid of turtles and foxes.
◆ When a bird's feathers start to drop out, it's called "molting."
◆ Mr. and Mrs. Mallard hatched 7 ducklings.
◆ Ducks bury their eggs in a hole.
◆ The ducks like peanuts.
◆ One of the duckling's names is "Snack."

III. Sequencing:

Write #1 next to the first thing that happened in the book. Then write #2, etc.

Mr. and Mrs. Mallard search for a place to build their nest.

Mrs. Mallard walks to the Public Garden with her ducklings behind her.

The ducklings hatch.

The Mallards meet Michael, the policeman.

The Mallards choose a cozy spot near the Charles River to build their nest.

IV. Summarizing:

Write or tell a short summary of the book in your own words.

V. Discussing:

Make Way for Ducklings & Responsibility

1. Discuss some things that you are responsible for in your house.
2. Talk about the people who are responsible for you. How do they take care of you?
3. How did Mr. Mallard demonstrate his responsibility for his ducklings?
4. How did Mrs. Mallard demonstrate her responsibility for her ducklings?
5. How did Michael the policeman demonstrate his responsibility for the ducklings?
6. Why is it important for adult ducks to be responsible for their babies?

VI. Activities:

Complete one or both of the below activities:

1. Make your own pond. Fill a bowl with water and place small sticks, rocks or pebbles, and leaves in it. You can add green food dye to make it look more like pond water. (If you happen to have a rubber duck, put it in the "pond" and watch it float!)
2. Put the names of the ducklings from the story in alphabetical order on a piece of paper. Then draw a picture of each one next to his or her name.

ANSWER KEY

I. Reading Comprehension

1. The main characters are Mr. and Mrs. Mallard, their children (the ducklings, and Michael). The policeman.
2. They're looking for a safe place to raise their family.
3. They live in Boston.
4. She only moves off her nest to drink water, eat a meal, or count her eggs.
5. He calls to ask other policemen to help him stop traffic so that the duck family could safely cross the road.
6. She walks, with her ducklings behind her.

II. True | False

1. T
2. T
3. F
4. F
5. T
6. F

III. Sequencing

1, 5, 4, 3, 2

IV. Summarizing (Answers will vary)

Mr. and Mrs. Mallard are looking for a place to build their nest. They fly around Boston and, although they like the Public Garden, they decide that it's safer to lay their eggs near the Charles River. Soon they meet Michael the policeman, who gives them peanuts to eat. Then Mrs. Mallard lays her eggs and sits on them until they hatch. After they hatch, she teaches her 8 ducklings how to swim, dive and walk. Mr. Mallard asks Mrs. Mallard to meet him in a week at the Public Garden. After a week, Mrs. Mallard walks with the ducklings from their nest to the Garden. On their way, many people see them and are surprised to see ducks walking on the streets of Boston! Michael and other policemen protect the ducks and help them arrive safely at the Garden where they meet up with Mr. Mallard. Mr. Mallard has found a safe place on an island in the Public Garden and the duck family decides to stay there to live.

V. Discussing: *Make Way for Ducklings* & Responsibility

1. Answers will vary.
2. Answers will vary.
3. Mr. Mallard spent a week looking for a safe, permanent place for the ducks to live.
4. Mrs. Mallard sat on the nest, protecting her babies before they were born. After they were born, she taught them how to swim, walk, and dive.
5. Michael blew his whistle and alerted people on the streets and in cars to "make way for the ducklings." In other words, he made sure that no one hit the ducks with cars or bikes, and no one stepped on them when they were walking by.
6. Adult ducks need to be responsible for their babies because the little ones can't take care of themselves when they're first born. They need to learn how to eat, walk, swim, etc. They also need to be protected because they are small and don't know how to defend themselves or avoid danger.

V. Activity #2

Here are the names of the ducklings in alphabetical order:
Jack, Kack, Lack, Nack, Ouack, Pack, and Quack