

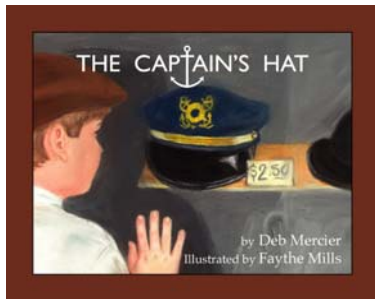
*Ideas for class discussion after reading *The Captain's Hat**

Exploring History through historical fiction

- How can you tell *The Captain's Hat* is set in the past? Find examples in the setting, the dialogue, and in the pictures.
- What are some differences you noticed between Otto's time and ours? (How does Otto usually get home from school or town? How do you usually get home?)
- What are some similarities you noticed between Otto's time and ours? (What does Otto need to do at home before he goes out to earn money for the captain's hat? Do you have chores to take care of at home?)
- Otto's hat cost \$2.50. How much do you think it would cost now? Would it cost more or less? What are some things you could buy today that would cost around \$2.50?
- How long did it take for Otto to earn \$2.50? How long do you think it would take you to earn \$2.50?

Emotional and Social questions

- Why did Otto want to sail with his father? Are there things you'd like to do but can't yet?
- Why did Otto give his money to the little girl instead of buying the captain's hat?
- Why didn't the little girl want to accept the money at first? What convinced her to accept? Why?
- What did Otto's father mean when he said, "It's not the hat that makes the man, it's the heart."?
- How do you feel when someone tells you, "You're not big enough."?
- Why wouldn't the little girl's mother go to the doctor?
- What are some things we can do to help people who need a boost?
- Have you ever donated or helped someone out? Describe.
- What are some jobs you could do to earn extra money?



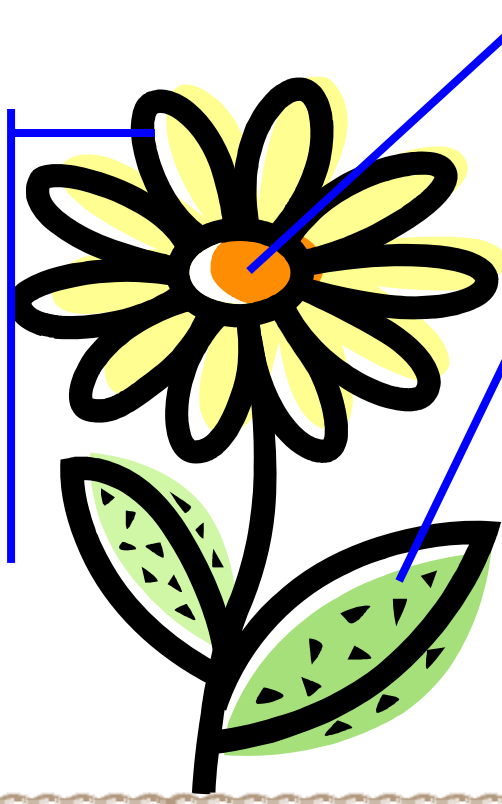
Class activity ideas after *The Captain's Hat* school presentation

Writing - Grow your own "story flower"

Materials needed: Colored construction paper or tagboard, markers or crayons, glue, scissors, pictures cut out from magazines. (Specific pictures work best, such as animals or people.)

Activity: Start by having children pick out a magazine picture they like. These are the "seeds." Using construction paper or tagboard, construct the flowers as shown below.

4. Write short "plot points" — things that could happen in a story about your character. Include the research on your stem. Example: if your seed is a picture of an elephant and you found out they eat some fruit, maybe your elephant goes hungry because he won't eat the bananas his mother puts out for him. The plot points don't have to relate to one another. Each one becomes a separate petal on the flower.



3. Who is your story about? Put your character's name in the middle of the flower. Older students may want to include a short description.

2. Find out some facts about your "seed". For example, if you picked a picture of an elephant, find out what they eat and where they live. If you have a picture of a person snowboarding, find out who invented the snowboard and when they first became popular. Paste your facts on the stem and leaves of your story flower.

1. Paste your "seed" here

Decorate the area around the seed as underground or in a flower pot. Maybe the flower pot is sitting on your head!

Older students could write a story based on their story flower and post them together — from "seed image" to finished story!

The Captain's Hat class activity ideas continued...

Illustration -

Materials needed: Photos of students that are OK to cut. (Students supply photo of themselves.) 8 1/2 x 11 photos of backgrounds—landscapes, buildings, from history, etc. You can find a lot of these right on your computer in the desktop backgrounds. Magazines are also a good resource.

Activity: Have students bring in a picture of themselves — preferably doing something active. Have them cut themselves out of the picture. Students choose a background, and paste themselves onto it. Then, using crayons, markers, or pencils, the students can draw a picture based on the images they pasted together. The pasteup and drawing should be displayed together.



History -

Materials needed: Construction paper, glue, scissors, crayons / colored pencils / markers

Activity: Have students do some research about what things cost in 1907. Find pictures to cut out, or draw the items next to their prices. **Example:** a wooden rocking chair in 1907 cost about \$2.50. Students could either draw a rocking chair, or find one from an advertisement to cut out.

More: Have students find out how much their items cost now. Write those prices alongside the 1907 prices for the same item. **Example:** That same rocking chair could cost \$179 now.



Social Issues -

Materials needed: Paper, glue, scissors, crayons / colored pencils / markers

Activity: Have students draw a picture of themselves helping someone else. Have them write what they're doing: "It makes me feel good when I _____."