Grade: 4th
Strategy: Making Connections
Technique: Story Mapping
Text Type: Fiction

The Enchanted Forest: An Unexpected Connection with the World

Aims of the lesson:

- To help students understand the importance of forests and their role in the environment.
- To encourage reflective thinking about their personal experiences with nature and forests.
- To promote research skills and awareness of global ecosystems.

Text for the lesson:

Once upon a time, in a small town nestled by a mystical forest, there lived a curious 4th grader named Max. One day, during a school field trip, Max wandered away from the group and found himself deep in the heart of the Enchanted Forest. As he explored its secrets, he began to realize the interconnectedness between this magical realm and the world beyond.

In the Enchanted Forest, Max discovered talking animals and mythical creatures. He met a wise old tree named Willow, who served as a guardian, guiding him through the forest's hidden wonders. Together, they uncovered the truth that the magic of the Enchanted Forest echoed the natural beauty found in forests all around the world.

Max witnessed the delicate balance that existed within the Enchanted Forest. He learned about the importance of caring for the environment, just as people should care for forests in the real world. The creatures in the Enchanted Forest taught Max about the impact of deforestation and pollution, inspiring him to become an advocate for protecting and preserving forests worldwide.

As Max continued his journey, he discovered that the Enchanted Forest was connected to the world beyond in unexpected ways. For every act of kindness or gesture of love in the real world, the forest would grow stronger and more vibrant. Max realized the importance of taking care of our planet and fostering positive connections with nature and all creatures that call it home.

In the end, Max emerged from the Enchanted Forest with a newfound appreciation for the world around him. He understood that the magic he had experienced in the Enchanted Forest was rooted in the wonders of the natural world. Armed with this knowledge, Max returned to his town, ready

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to inspire others to connect with and protect our planet's magnificent forests.

Process Phase 1: Planning (Teachers' perspective)
During this stage, the teacher prepares:

- The text "The Enchanted Forest" for reading.
- Questions and activities for making connections.
- Materials for research and presentations.

Cognitive Stage 1 (Students' perspective)
Step 1: Personal Connection Reflection
Activity:

- Pause the story after introducing Max and the Enchanted Forest.
- Ask students to think about a place in the real world that reminds them of an enchanted forest, where nature feels full of wonder and mystery.
- Encourage them to share their feelings with a partner or write about it in their journal: *How does it make you feel when you're there?*

Process Phase 2: Exploring Real-World Forests
Step 2: Connecting to Global Ecosystems
Activity:

- Continue reading about Max's discoveries in the forest.
- Pause after discussing real-life forests such as the Amazon Rainforest or the Black Forest.
- Ask students to consider similarities between these forests and the Enchanted Forest, discussing their ideas with a partner or writing them down: *What similarities do you think they may share?*

Cognitive Stage 2 (Students' perspective)
Step 3: Research and Presentation
Activity:

- Prompt students to choose a real forest from anywhere in the world.
- Instruct them to conduct research and create a small presentation or poster sharing interesting facts about that forest, focusing on:
  - The types of plant and animal life present.
  - Any unique features or threats to the forest.
- Discuss how these creatures and plant life are similar to or different from those in the Enchanted Forest.

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Process Phase 3: Environmental Responsibility
Step 4: Contributing to Forest Well-Being
Activity:

- After finishing the story, prompt students to reflect on how they can contribute to the well-being of forests in the real world.
- Encourage them to think about small actions, such as planting a tree, recycling, or educating others about conservation.
- Have students share their ideas with a partner or write them down, reflecting on how they can make a difference.

Ways of Communication:

- **Interpretive** - Students interpret the themes of environmental awareness and connection to nature.
- **Interpersonal** - Students engage in discussions, facilitating collaboration and communication among peers.
- **Presentational** - Students present their research findings and reflections, enhancing their public speaking skills.

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