

Who's Gobbling?



Building Suspense with the Magic of Three.

INTRODUCE

Introduce building suspense with the Magic of Three. If your students are not familiar with wild turkeys, be sure to read about or discuss their habitat, appearance, and behavior, providing enough background knowledge for students to apply to their writing.

LITERATURE CONNECTION

*Turkeys That Fly and
Turkeys That Don't*
by Allan Fowler

A Turkey for Thanksgiving
by Eve Bunting

MODEL

Model the Magic of Three pattern using the example on page 53. Read the paragraph together, and then ask students to pick out the three hints and reactions and identify the revelation. Next, walk students through the activity on the *Who's Gobbling?* student page (p. 61).

Give students a lead sentence that sets a purpose for the action:

One autumn afternoon I strolled along through the forest.

Give students the discovery with which to end their suspenseful paragraph:

There, staring up at me, was a wild turkey!

Then ask students about what kinds of clues they might encounter, prompting them to use the five senses. Questions might include:

- What might you **HEAR** if a turkey was running through the underbrush?
a shuffling sound, rustling leaves, snapping twigs, gobbling (suggest that student save this for their last hint!)
- What might you **SEE** if a turkey ran past into the underbrush, just out of view?
a blur, a streak of brown and red, a shadow, something in the corner of your eye, a feather
- What might you **SENSE OR FEEL** if a wild turkey was nearby?
a feeling of being watched, something rubbing against your leg
- How would you **REACT** to each of these hints?
nervous, heart pounding, you quicken your step, a shiver down your spine, hands tremble, knees feel weak, you begin to sweat, you gasp, look around, listen closely
- What "**RED FLAG**" words might you use to grab the reader's attention for each new hint?
suddenly, all of a sudden, just then, the next thing I knew, before I knew it

Think aloud for the class as you craft student responses into the Magic of Three pattern on chart paper. Your paragraph might look something like this:

One autumn afternoon, I strolled along through the forest. Suddenly, there was a rustling sound in the bushes along the path. I paused and looked around, and my heart began to beat a little faster. There was nothing there. I shrugged and walked on, a little faster this time. Just then, I saw something out of the corner of my eye—just a quick flash of brown and red. I whirled about, but again, there was nothing out of the ordinary. Feeling a little nervous, my knees turning to jelly, I went on, determined to get out of the woods as quickly as I could. The next thing I knew, I heard a loud gobbling sound. I gasped. There, staring up at me, was a wild turkey!

GUIDED PRACTICE

For this activity, it's not necessary to complete the art component first, although it will help focus students on their main event. Students can write their own Magic of Three suspense paragraph, working from your modeled paragraph and the outline on the student page.

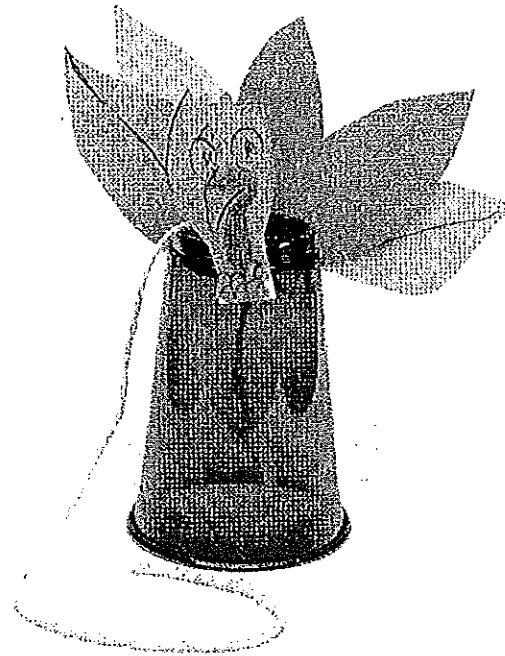
ART CONNECTION

MATERIALS

- plastic cups (preferably red, but any color will do), one for each student
- scissors
- string
- construction paper in assorted colors
- crayons, markers
- glue, tape

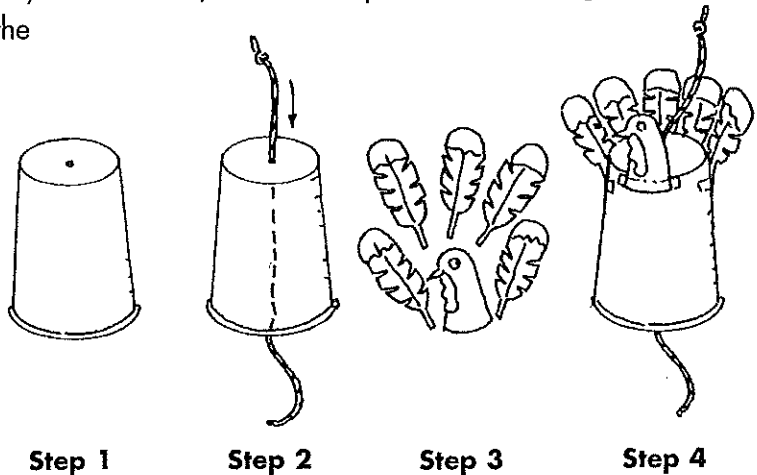
PREPARATION

1. Use sharp end of scissors (or other pointed implement) to puncture a small hole in the center of the bottom of each cup. (The hole should be just large enough to thread the string through; see Step 1.)
2. Cut a 12" length of string for each student. (Or have them measure and cut their own in class.)
3. If desired, create templates of feathers and a turkey head for students to trace.



PROCEDURE

1. Distribute cups and string. Instruct students to tie a large knot at one end of their string. Ask them to place the cups open-end-down on their desks and thread the unknotted end of their string through the hole in their cups. They should pull the string through so that it hangs beneath the cup, as shown in Step 2.
2. Pass out small pieces of brown construction paper for the turkey's head. Ask the children to draw a turkey head shape—having a picture available is a great help! (The variations in students' interpretation of this produces a unique flock of turkeys! For a more consistent result, you may cut templates for students, out of oaktag.) See Step 3.
3. Students then draw in eyes, a beak, and a snood, the loose flap of skin that hangs over the beak. Tape the head to the cup.
4. Now students cut out five construction-paper feathers as shown. (Again, you may have them draw and cut their own or use a template.) They may add crayon shading and detail. Finally, arrange them to the cup as shown in Step 4 and tape in place.

**Try This!**

Now comes the fun part! Have students wet the fingers of one hand and hold their turkey gobblers in the other. Have them tug at the string with wet fingers. This produces an amazing gobbling sound!

Presentation Idea

Invite students to work in pairs, one reading aloud the suspense piece while the other creates sounds effect with the plastic-cup gobblers.

STUDENT SAMPLE

As I walked through the woods, I could hear leaves crunching and crackling underneath my feet. Suddenly, I heard something behind a tall oak tree; it sounded like shaking feathers. I was too scared to look. I didn't hear anything else, so I figured it was just the wind blowing on the leaves. I walked a few more feet when I thought I saw a gigantic feather on the ground a little bit ahead. I crept ahead to take a look. The feather turned out to be a twig, but I still felt uneasy. I spun around as I heard a branch snap, and found myself standing face o face with a wild turkey! whew!

Who's Gobbling? Student Page

Name _____ Date _____

IMAGINE THAT...

You are strolling through the forest on an autumn day when suddenly you realize that you are not alone. Someone or something is nearby! You wonder what it is, but you discover nothing. You move on, and, for the second time, there is some hint—something you hear, see, or sense—that tells you something is near. Once again, nothing seems out of the ordinary, but you begin to feel nervous. You walk on, and a third time you are made aware that you are not alone. You finally discover what has been lurking in the underbrush—you find yourself facing a gobbling wild turkey!

Writer's Technique Building suspense with the Magic of Three.

Here is the pattern that writers follow to build suspense using the Magic of Three.

Hint #1: You observe or sense something—a clue to what you will eventually discover.

You discover nothing.

You react.

Hint #2: You observe or sense something else (a different clue).

You discover nothing.

You react—a stronger reaction this time.

Hint #3: You observe or sense something else (a different clue).

You make your discovery!

You react.

Get Ready to Write!

Think about your setting (*the autumn forest*), action (*walking in the woods*), and your discovery (*a wild turkey*). Begin with a sentence about strolling in the forest. Then, think about what kinds of sights, sounds, or feelings might hint (but not reveal) that a wild turkey is nearby. Each hint and each reaction should be stronger than the one before it. Follow the Magic of Three pattern to write a suspenseful paragraph!

Artful Connection Make a gobbling turkey!