Activity Ideas NSS 2016 – I Got This Hat

To ensure you, your school, community or library have loads of fun for National Simultaneous Storytime 2016, we have compiled a list of resources and activity ideas that are sure to keep you busy before, during and after storytime.

Preparing for NSS

Before the fun of National Simultaneous Storytime, it’s a great idea to create artwork for the day and decorate! Take a look at some of our ‘create and decorate’ ideas.

Create things that align with the themes of the book, like hats, cultures and countries.

- Get the kids to fill in the different countries they have visited, or would like to visit on a world map like this one.
- There were some very crazy and colourful hats worn by the character in the book, how crazy can you make your hat? Draw your creation using this template.
- Decorate your own pirate hat using our template – and show us!
- Why not make your own hats with craft or origami! Idea 1 | Idea 2 | Idea 3
- I Got This Hat find-a-word

Participate

On the day, it’s a fantastic opportunity to explore the themes of the book and do some activities that remind us of them. Here are some simple ideas and activities that you can do during and after National Simultaneous Storytime.

Activities that remind us of the topics learnt in I Got This Hat

- The authors like to use rhymes in the book, how about getting the children to write a rhyming poem about what they want to be when they grow up?
- Play some fun hat-related games with your classmates, like the ones found here.
- Introduce a hat theme for the day, for example famous movie hats, sports hats, hats of the world.
- Research hats in different cultures and countries and then play a game to try and guess which hat belongs to which country.
The character wore some hats from different countries, try and learn to say ‘hat’ in different languages! Sombrero = hat (In Spanish)

Have a box of different hats and role play each hat when you put it on, taking on a different character!

Read other books by Jol and Kate Temple and Jon Foye including, Parrot Carrot and Mike I Don’t Like

Discussion ideas for your classroom or library

- Challenge: before reading the book, ask how many hats can you count in the book?
- During or after the book ask some more questions. What is your favourite hat to wear and why?
- Discuss the purpose and importance of hats. Why do people wear hats? Sun protection, safety, warmth etc.
- Introduce Edward de Bono’s ‘Six Thinking Hats’.

Author and illustrator resources

Jol and Kate Temple and Jon Foye have two other fantastic books, as mentioned above. To find out more about these fun books check out their websites below.

- Parrot Carrot - http://www.parrotcarrot.com/
- Mike I Don’t Like - http://www.mikeidontlike.com/

Songs and Rhymes

- I Got a Hat
- Mexican Hat Dance (learn steps)
- Various Hat songs
- Hat Rhyme
- Hello To All The Children Of The World
- Multicultural songs

Story Matches – Books with similar themes or categories

- Mike I Don’t Like by Jol and Kate Temple and Jon Foye
- Parrot Carrot by Jol and Kate Temple and Jon Foye
- Sebastian Lives In A Hat by Thelma Catterwell and Kerry Argent
- When Everybody Wore a Hat by William Steig
- The Cat in the Hat by Dr Seuss
Publicity ideas
NSS is a fantastic opportunity to show off what you and your workplace or community have got up to for National Simultaneous Storytime. It’s a fantastic chance to promote the value of literacy and reading, and get your event in the media. Here are some ideas to get you started.

Invite a VIP guest reader to your event. Feel free to use the NSS letterhead to write your invitation letter.

Invite the media. The media loves colourful, feel-good stories and being in the newspaper, news website or even on television news can be a lot of fun! With your NSS posters and balloons, your VIP guest reader and your participants dressed up in masks and costumes there will be lots of moments to create a positive media story. Use your networks or build new connections with your local media outlets to help us promote literacy and reading to Australian children.

After the event
Share in the fun

When National Simultaneous Storytime passes, there’s only another year to wait until the next one! But to reminisce on what a wonderful time you and your participants had listening to the book, and learning about culture, diversity and hats! How about encouraging your participants to share their activities with family and friends? Suggest gifting artwork to parents and relatives.

Share your stories

Don’t forget to send photos, videos and newspaper articles from your local media to events@alia.org.au.