



Margaret, the greedy Magpie

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Objectives

- To understand and enjoy the main idea of the story.
- To teach the concepts of vanity and greed.
- To teach values such as cooperation, generosity and willingness to share.
- To teach how to talk about a variety of emotions and feelings.

Word bank

Key vocabulary

Nouns: forest, bird, magpie, feathers, beak, nest, queen, treasure, palace, diamonds, ring, necklace, bottle, mirror, thief, autumn, winter, party.

Verbs: to live, to build, to envy, to collect, to hide, to flap (wings), to go away, to shout, to hibernate, to invite, to decorate.

Adjectives: black, white, pretty, beautiful, vain, shiny, happy, angry, alone, sad, poor, busy, brilliant (idea), magical.

Structures:

- **Like + noun** = to express similitude e.g. The river was like a mirror. The forest was like a palace.
- Invite **to** the party, prepare **for** the party, thanks **to** somebody.

Tips and ideas

Before reading

- **Class Poster.** Creating a class poster can be a good way to pre-teach key vocabulary. Ask your students to bring photos of birds to school. Put a huge sheet of paper on the wall and stick the photos of birds in the middle. Talk about the birds and their features. Ask the children to identify elements which all birds have in common: **wings, feathers, a beak, eyes, a tail.** Next, put up a photo of a **nest** and introduce the word **mud.** Introduce the words **branch** and **tree.**

During reading

- **Identify Characters and Scenes.** The first time you tell the story it is essential to use mime and gestures and to always point at the character that is speaking using the illustrations of the different characters. Do the same to show different places in the story (river, imaginary palace, tree, forest party).

After reading

- **TPR Storytelling** When the children are familiar with the story, narrate it once again with the whole class using TPR. Ask children to represent what you say with a physical action. If you tell them these phrases in this order, they will represent the entire story:
 - Put a crown on your head!
 - You are beautiful like a queen! Like a king!
 - Look for treasure on the ground!
 - Hide your treasure!
 - Go away, thief!
 - Be sad and alone!
 - Have a brilliant idea!
 - Share something!

Teacher support activities

Great games: "Running words"

The objective of this activity is to reflect deeper on the concept of generosity and put it on a more personal level. To achieve this, we will use the adaptation of one of the techniques applied in teaching Thinking Skills. When they finish, compare students' sheets and talk about their individual feelings and representations of generosity.

- **Image:** Ask students to draw any image that means "generosity" for them.
- **Colour:** Ask them to choose a colour which they associate with the value of generosity.
- **Word:** Ask them to write (or say) a word which they associate with generosity.

CLIL link: Physical Education

Watch the video "**I like Birds: A children's Story**". Type the name of the video in youtube.com and you will find it immediately. As the children watch the video comment on the features of birds and what they do in the video. At the end ask children questions like:

- Can birds swim?
- Can birds run?
- Can birds hide?
- What do birds eat?
- Where do birds live?
- Which bird lives near the ocean/lakes?

English theatre: "Snowy is our hero!"

Characters: Margaret, squirrel, animals (chorus)

SCENE 1

Margaret: I am so beautiful! I am beautiful like a queen.

(Margaret moves around with an air of vanity.)

Animals (chorus): Margaret is so vain!

Margaret: I don't want to live in this nest! I will build a castle.

(She picks something up from the floor and puts it aside.)

Squirrel: Hello, Margaret. Can I see your treasure?

Margaret: No, go away! Go away!

SCENE 2

(The animals start arranging things to prepare a party.)

Squirrel: It's autumn. Let's have a party!

Animals (chorus): Yes, let's have a party! Let's sing songs!

Margaret: They will invite me to the party!

(The animals continue preparing the party and ignoring Margaret.)

Margaret: I'm so sad. Nobody has invited me to the party.

(Margaret looks very sad and she goes to sleep.)

SCENE 3

(It's morning. Margaret wakes up. She looks happy.)

Margaret: I have an idea! I will share my treasure with all animals!

(Margaret goes to the party and gives treasure to the animals.)

Margaret: Please, take my treasure!

(Squirrel accepts treasure.)

Squirrel: Thank you, we will decorate the trees!

Animals (chorus): Welcome to the party, Margaret!