



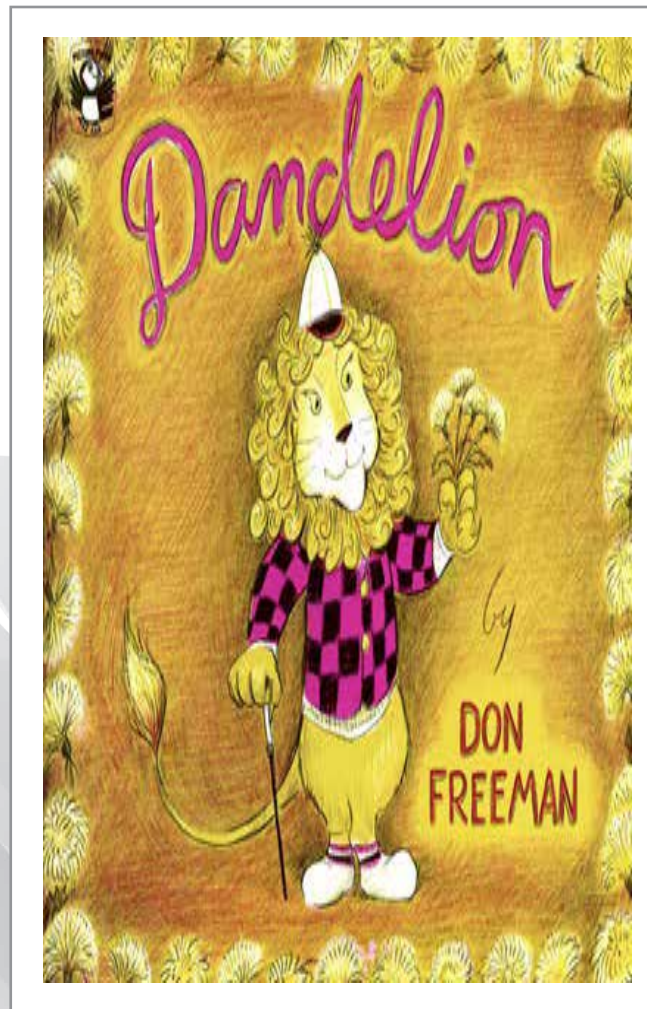
TEACHER GUIDE

GRADES K-3

COMPREHENSIVE CURRICULUM BASED LESSON PLANS

Dandelion

Don Freeman



READ, WRITE, THINK, DISCUSS AND CONNECT

Dandelion

Don Freeman

TEACHER GUIDE

NOTE:

The trade book edition of the novel used to prepare this guide is found in the Novel Units catalog and on the Novel Units website. Using other editions may have varied page references.

Please note: We have assigned Interest Levels based on our knowledge of the themes and ideas of the books included in the Novel Units sets, however, please assess the appropriateness of this novel or trade book for the age level and maturity of your students prior to reading with them. You know your students best!

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Skills and Strategies

Thinking

Brainstorming

Literary Elements

Characterization, story
elements

Comprehension

Predicting, sequencing,
comparison/contrast

Writing

Advertisement, invitations,
narrative, journal

Listening/Speaking

Discussion, dramatizing

Vocabulary

Word Search

Summary of *Dandelion*

Dandelion, the lion, goes to get a haircut when he is invited to a tea-and-taffy party by Jennifer Giraffe. One thing leads to another and Dandelion, having been transferred into a dandy lion, goes unrecognized by his hostess, who closes the door in his face!

A sudden cloudburst returns Dandelion to his former self, and he enjoys the party with his friends, as well as a good laugh at his attempts to impress others. Dandelion promises to never again turn himself into a stylish dandy.

About the Author

Don Freeman was born August 11, 1908, in San Diego, California.

As a child growing up in California, Freeman and his brother Warren were placed with a guardian by the name of Mrs. Blass. Their father would visit them on Sundays, his only day off from work. After a few years, Mrs. Blass and the boys moved to San Diego, and Mr. Freeman moved in with them.

The father loved the theater, and took the boys whenever he could. When he was ten years old, Freeman was given a trumpet for his birthday. He taught himself to play by listening to records of the current orchestras. He taught himself well!

As a graduation gift from high school, his grandmother gave Don a summer school course in art at the San Diego School of Fine Arts. He found that lithographic medium suited his temperament. This gave him the start of a new ambition.

Freeman took small time engagements to play the trumpet so that he could earn the train fare to New York, where he hoped to go to art school. In 1929, he wound up hitch-hiking from California to New York, playing the trumpet across the land to earn money to live on as he traveled.

He played the trumpet with jazz bands in New York, to pay for his studies at the Art Students League. Then, when he was trying to decide between the trumpet and art in the early 1930's, he lost the trumpet on a subway train. The decision was made for him! He became a free lance artist, painter, and print maker. His work was seen in The New York Times and The New York Herald Tribune for more than twenty years. He married Lydia Cooley, an artist, in 1931. He then became an author and illustrator of books for children, having his first book published in 1951. His last book, *A Pocket For Corduroy*, was in press at the time of his death in 1978, at age 69.

Bulletin Boards

I Am Special

Make a large “special award.” (See “I Am Special” page for illustration.) Put this in the center of the bulletin board. If you have available, put pictures of the children in the class around the award. If you do not have pictures, make an award for each and put up, or put up the names of the children.

Dandelion’s Invitation

Make a large copy of the invitation that Dandelion received. Use gold crayon. Use manuscript letters for those not able to read cursive writing.

If available, put around Dandelion’s invitation samples of other invitations to different kinds of parties (birthday, baby showers, New Year’s, etc.).

KWL About Lions

Put up a large map of Africa. Surround the map with different pictures of lions.

Beside the map and pictures, put a large piece of mailing or butcher paper.

Divide into three sections, showing three columns. Put a *K* at the top of the first section, *W* at the top of the middle section, and *L* at the top of the third section.

In the *K* section, record what the children *KNOW* about lions.

In the *W* section, record what the children *WOULD* like to know about lions. (These usually take on the form of a question. Example: What do lions eat?)

The *L* section will be filled in as the children *LEARN* more about lions. If the information gathered proves that something in the *K* section is incorrect, cross it out.

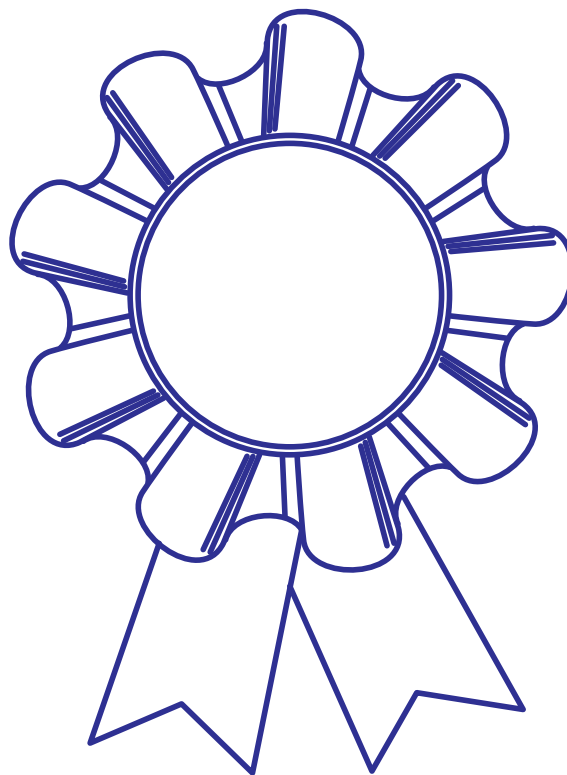
What I Know	What I Would Like to Know	What I Learned

I Am Special

Help the children to realize that each is special. Devote at least a day to this. Each child can make, or have, a special ribbon "award" to wear for the special day. For the special award: construction paper, cupcake liners, ribbon, gluestick, and large sticky dots (optional).

To make the special award:

- Cut a circle out of the construction paper, using a margarine tub lid for the template.
- Take a cupcake liner and flatten the middle. Put "I Am Special" in the center. (Put the words on the large sticky dot, if using, and put that in the center of the liner.)
- Put glue on the back of the liner and glue it in the middle of the paper circle.
- While that is setting, cut out ribbon from construction paper, or use floral ribbon to make the rest of the special award.
- Glue the ribbon onto the award.
- Make a circle of masking tape to put on the back of the award and wear it!



Source for floral ribbon: (Please request a catalog)

Newark Dressmaker Supply
6473 Ruch Road - P.O. Box 2448
Lehigh Valley, PA 18001