



Lesson Extensions and Activities for

The Talking Eggs

Age Range: 4 - 8 years

Reading Is Fundamental

Google Voyager Folktales Unit

Book Description

Sweet Blanche lives with her ill-tempered mother and Rose, her sharp-tongued sister, on a poor farm in the U.S. South. One day, Blanche meets an old woman who rewards her kindness with gifts of finery and more. A jealous Rose sets off to get her share, but she ends up being taught a serious lesson instead.

Folktale Background

The Talking Eggs features themes from popular European fairy tales. The tale was likely brought to Louisiana by people who left France to come to the U.S. Variations of this story suggest it was spread orally throughout the U.S. South before ending up in a nineteenth century collection of Louisiana stories by folklorist Alcee Fortier.

Vocabulary

Widow – A woman who has lost her spouse.

Cross – Mean.

Raggedy – Shabby.

Holler – To give a loud shout.

Scold – To rebuke angrily.

Bramble – A prickly scrambling vine or shrub.

Tumbledown – Falling or fallen into ruin.

Bray – The cry of a donkey or mule.

Kindling – Easily combustible small sticks or twigs that are used to start a fire.

Mortar – A cup-shaped receptacle made of hard material.

Pestle – A heavy tool with a rounded end.

Gawk – Stare openly and stupidly.

Finery – Expensive clothes.

Skillet – A frying pan.

Contrary – Opposite in nature.

Dawdle – Waste time by moving in a slow manner.

Groping – Feeling about or searching blindly.

Prior to Reading

- Ask students if they have heard of Louisiana. On chart paper, create a Venn diagram and have students share what's similar about the state where they live and Louisiana and what's unique to each

state. Note students' answers even if they're incorrect as you will go back and discuss the answers after learning more about Louisiana.

- Walk students through the Louisiana [Google Voyager Experience](#). Students will learn about where the most story is set. Add additional notes to the Venn diagram as you walk through the experience.
- Share with students that *The Talking Eggs* is adapted from a Creole folktale originally included in a collection of Louisiana stories. Ask if they've heard any other Creole stories and call on volunteers to share.

While Reading

- Stop reading after the line that says, "Then she walked away down the path that led to the deep woods." Ask students if they would have given the old woman a sip of water if they were in Blanche's shoes.
- Stop reading after the line that says, "Blanche gave her word of honor that she wouldn't laugh." Ask students to guess what types of things Blanche will see.
- Stop reading on the page that says, "Then you'll get a surprise." Ask students to guess what that surprise will be.
- Stop reading on the page that says, "I swear," said Rose." Ask students to guess if Rose will keep her promise.
- Stop reading on the page that says, "Inside, all the plain eggs cried, 'Take me,' while all the gold and silver and jeweled ones said, 'Don't take me.'" Ask students to guess if Rose will take the right eggs.

Post Reading Activities

- Lead a discussion about the tale. Ask students such questions as:
 - Why did Blanche's mother and sister dislike Blanche?
 - Why did Blanche's mother and sister get so angry at Blanche?
 - What would you do if you were Blanche when the old woman took off her head?
 - What was different about how Blanche treated the old woman and how Rose treated the old woman?
 - Why did Blanche get to go to the city and live like a grand lady?
- Have students complete the Criss Cross, Memory Matching, and Word Search puzzles about *The Talking Eggs* on RIF's Literacy Central (<https://www.rif.org/literacy-central>).

Lesson Extensions and Activities

Here are some ways to further explore the story:

Primary Standard for all activities: RL.K.10 (Actively engage in group reading activities with purpose and understanding.)

- **Math** – Have students complete word problems related to *The Talking Eggs*.
 - Example word problem: Blanche takes 15 regular eggs from the old woman's chicken house. Rose takes 12 golden eggs, 12 silver eggs and 16 eggs that are covered in jewels. Blanche then throws 6 eggs over her shoulder. Rose throws 4 golden eggs, 3 silver eggs and 16 jewel-covered eggs over her shoulder. How many of each type of egg are left?

Objective: Students will translate word problems to math problems and then solve them.

Standards: CCSS.MATH.CONTENT.1.OA.A.1 (Use addition and subtraction within 20 to solve word problems involving situations of adding to, taking from, putting together, taking apart, and comparing, with unknowns in all positions, e.g., by using objects, drawings, and equations with a symbol for the unknown number to represent the problem.)

Materials:

- Printouts with word problems related to *The Talking Eggs*
 - Paper cutouts of foods mentioned in *The Talking Eggs*
 - Pencils
- **Arts** – The old woman warns both Blanche and Rose that they'll see some funny things on their walk through the woods. Have students use the descriptions in the book and their imaginations to depict fanciful creatures that live in the forest.

Objective: Students will design and create artistic works based on a description.

Standards: National Core Arts Standards, Anchor Standard #3 (Refine and complete artistic work.)

Materials:

- Candy
 - Glue
 - Markers
 - Colored pencils
 - Construction paper
 - Pencils
 - Magazines that can be cut
 - Scissors
- **Writing** – Blanche ends up going to the city to live like a grand lady, and she remains kind and generous as always. Have students write a letter from Blanche to her mother and sister telling them about how she was able to move to the city and inviting them to come and visit her.

Objective: Students will recall details from a book to write from a character's perspective.

Standards: CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.1.3 (Write narratives in which they recount two or more appropriately sequenced events, include some details regarding what happened, use temporal words to signal event order, and provide some sense of closure.)

Materials:

- Journals
- Pens