



Stormy's Hat by Eric A. Kimmel

illustrated by Andrea U'Ren

Summary

Stormy was a railroad man who couldn't find the right hat to wear while driving trains and working on the railroad. His wife, Ida, came up with the perfect design that is still in use today.

Ideas for Classroom Use

Discussion Questions

Discussion questions - encourage children to find examples from the story to document their answers.

- Stormy tried many different hats while working on the railroad. Why was it so difficult to come up with a design that worked?
- Why do you think it took Stormy so long to listen to his wife Ida?
- What would you like to describe to someone and have them create for you?

Responding to the Text

Social Studies

Railroads of the past

Learn what it might have been like traveling by train when train travel was the fastest method of transportation. A variety of lesson plans are provided at:

<http://www.rrmuseumpa.org/education/RRMusPa%20-Teacher%27s%20Guide.pdf>

Learn to use railroad color, lantern, and hand signals

Railroad engineers needed to know how to communicate to those who were directing traffic on the tracks, so they had a language that was based on colors, lantern and hand signals. Find out more information and how to perform the signals at :

<http://www.thortrains.net/handtalk.htm>

Research

More information – trains past and present

The Railroad Museum of Pennsylvania provides excellent links to many websites that may help you with a unit on trains and train travel:

<http://www.rrmuseumpa.org/education/edmainpg.htm>

Stormy and Ida's Hat Business

Stormy and his wife Ida got so many requests for the hat Ida created that they started their own hat business. It is still in existence today. To see the original hat as well as all of those that have spun off from the original design, visit:

<http://www.stormykromer.com/>



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Art

Create pressman hats

A friend shared the way to make a Pressman's hat with Stormy. Your students can make them as well. Find the directions at:

<http://www.freep.com/assets/static/pdf/2006/05/pressmans.pdf>

Language Arts

Songs

Teach your children some of the great railroad songs that we learned when we were young:

"I've Been Working on a Railroad"

Lyrics and music at:

www.contemplator.com/america/railroad.html

"Little Red Caboose"

www.brightcove.tv/title.jsp?title=512940619&channel=494889337

"A Peanut sat on a railroad track"

Lyrics and music at:

http://www.kids-teens.org/RHYMES/peanut_sat_on_a_railroad_track.htm

Train Vocabulary

Do you know what a coupler, Gandy Dancer or hopper are? Impress your friends and become an expert in train vocabulary by learning some of the words at the website below. They will make superb words for your next game of Scrabble!

<http://www.rrmuseumpa.org/education/RRMusPa%20-Teacher%27s%20Guide.pdf>