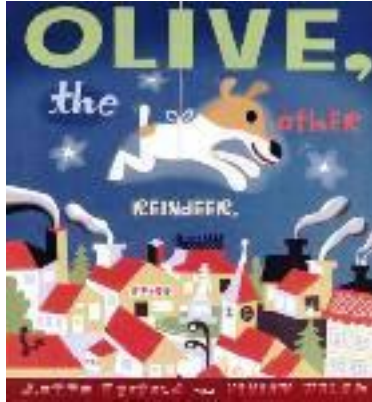***OLIVE THE OTHER REINDEER***
Written by Vivian Walsh
Illustrated by: J. Otto Seibold

This lesson plan provides young readers with opportunities to identify both character qualities and story structure, and to make connections to the original reindeer story (text-to-text connections). This would be an ideal lesson plan for a small group or as a guided lesson experience focused on developing strengths in understanding story grammar as well as how stories can be written as extensions of existing texts.

Lesson Objectives:

To be able to read, comprehend and make sense of text by charting the events of the story and the character's probable response

To be able to compare the original reindeer story and this text for similarities and differences in events and characters

Grade Level: 1 - 4

Common Core Connections:

Meaning: *Multiple levels of meaning, implicit purpose*
Structure: *fiction structure, conventional text, picture book*
Language Convention/Clarity: *comparative text, figurative language, ambiguous meaning*
Knowledge Demands: *multiple perspectives*

Strategies:
Students will be able to read, comprehend and make sense of text by charting the events of the story and the character's probable response.
Students will be able to compare the original reindeer story and this text for similarities and differences in events and characters.

Materials/Resources:
- *OLIVE THE OTHER REINDEER* e-book on Tumblebooks
- SMARTboard or other interactive white board (or projector/laptop)
- Character Chart, Compare/Contrast graphic organizers
- Laptops/ipads
- Writing books/logs

Strategic Lesson Plan:
- Review with students the components of a narrative story (characters, setting, problem, events, solution/conclusion)
- Discuss with students how a **classic story structure** offers a problem or series of problems with possible solutions where characters react, try something else and end the story with a unique (novel) resoluiton
- Explain today's story is a fantasy story that echoes the traditional reindeer story *Rudolf the Red-Nosed Reindeer*; sometimes stories are written to be similar to an already existing story and *OLIVE THE OTHER REINDEER* is one of these stories
- This is also a 'play on words' – this is an idea students will pick up on quickly and find amusing
- Display the e-book *OLIVE THE OTHER REINDEER* on the Smartboard and ask students to make predictions about the book based on the title
- Explain to the students they will be tracking the action in the story on a **character chart** graphic organizer following completion of the book
- Invite students in pairs or triads to begin interacting with the e-book, *OLIVE THE OTHER REINDEER*
- Circulate while students are reading, offering support where needed and making note of those students who are particularly encountering challenges as they may need additional support in the next activity
- Encourage students to pause briefly from time to time to discuss the elements students' recognized – characters, setting, problem, events, solution/conclusion
- When students have finished the text, ask them to 'turn and talk' to a buddy nearby
- Ask students to complete the **character chart** graphic organizer on the Smartboard or in pairs/triads, or independently
- Share together with another pair/triad as students finish, or bring together and share as a whole group

Additional Lessons:

'Compare/Contrast':

Distribute or display the **Compare/Contrast Chart** on the Smartboard and explain to the students they will list the things that are different between the two texts on the chart. *(for example, Olive on one side, Rudolf on the other; dog on one side, reindeer on the other, etc)* This is an opportunity to make text-to-text connections.

Ask students to complete the chart in pairs/triads or altogether on the Smartboard. Discuss the similarities and differences with the students as they are completing the chart.

The Character Chart activity can be used as a formative assessment activity to assess awareness of story structure.

Describe the character in the beginning.

Event #1 → The character feels....

Event #2 → The character feels....

Event #3 → The character feels....

Event #4 → The character feels....

Event #5 → The character feels....

Event #6 → The character feels....

Describe the character at the end.

Character Chart

Olive the Other Reindeer   **Rudolf the Red-Nosed Reindeer**