



Grade: Kindergarten

Artist: Leo Lionni

Preparation:

- There is a blue box labeled “Kindergarten” in the supply closet on the 1st floor near the 4th & 5th grade classrooms with all the supplies needed for the presentation and project.

- Each classroom folder contains:

- ✓ a copy of *A Color of His Own*
- ✓ pieces of colorful construction paper
- ✓ pieces of tissue paper
- ✓ feathers
- ✓ pieces of foam
- ✓ containers for construction paper, tissue paper, feathers, and foam
- ✓ chameleons outlined on white card stock paper
- ✓ plain border for bulletin board

What do parents need to do to prepare?

- Parents will cut out 25 chameleons on white card stock in advance.
- Parents will sort construction paper, tissue paper, feathers, and foam into cups. Parents will make sure that each group of students that sits together has one cup of construction paper, one cup of tissue paper pieces, one cup of feathers, and one cup of foam pieces. In order to have the right number of cups, the parents will reach out to the teacher to ask about the number of children/seating arrangements.
- Parents will confirm with each teacher if glue sticks and scissors are available for use in each classroom.

Presentation Instructions:

Step 1: Make a personal connection to the story

- You will gather the students on the rug. You will ask the students if they like animals and what their favorite animals are.

Step 2: Introduce the story; Give students an objective for reading

- After students share their answers, you will introduce the lesson by stating that today the class will learn about an author and illustrator that LOVED nature and animals.
- You will indicate that the author/illustrator is Leo Lionni.
- You will explain that the class will read one of the books that Leo Lionni wrote - *A Color of His Own*. You will ask students to pay attention to the animal in the story and all of the pictures of it.

Step 3: Read the story

- As you read, ask students to make observations about the chameleon (e.g. What is happening to the chameleon on this page?)

Step 4: Loop back around to your objective

- After the story, ask - "What animal did Leo Lionni write about in this book? What did you notice about the pictures that he made?"
- After students share their answers, explain: "These are all great observations. An observation that I have is that Leo Lionni is special because he made these pictures using a method called collage. A collage is made when we take pieces of different items and stick them together to make a new thing."

Step 5: Introduce the activity

- Show students a sample chameleon and explain to them that, just as Leo Lionni, they will make their own chameleons using collage. Explain that they are free to use any or all of these materials. If a student JUST wants to use feathers, they are welcome to. If they JUST want sticky foam and construction paper, they are welcome to. Explain that it is their chameleon so it will be unique and beautiful in its own way.

Step 6: Transition to tables

- While one parent reads/introduces the activity, the others will set up the tables, ensuring that each group of children that sits together has 4 containers- one filled with construction paper, one with tissue paper, one with feathers, and one with foam. This will allow children to transition to tables that are already set up.

Step 7: HAVE THE CHILDREN WRITE THEIR NAMES ON THE BACK OF THE CHAMELEON AND THE CLASS (E.G. K-L)

Step 8: Decorate the chameleons and bulletin board border

- When students are done with decorating their chameleons using the various materials (construction paper/tissue paper/feathers/foam), have them write their names on back and collect them.
- Students that finish early will use the collage method to decorate pieces of the bulletin board border.

Step 9: Closure/Reflection

- Ask students what they learned today.
- Ask students what they learned about Leo Lionni.
- Ask students what they learned about collage.

IMPORTANT:

- Please be sure to have the students write their name and grade/class on the back of their artwork.
- Please allow the chameleons to dry. Leave them with the teachers.
- The Awesome Art chairpersons will place the work up on the Awesome Art bulletin boards after it dries.

Thank you for being awesome and volunteering for Awesome Art!