

Bringing *The Velveteen Rabbit* to Life

State the Challenge: Specifically describe your issue and how your project will address and attempt to solve it. (250 words max)

Students at Fairmont Elementary School, where 75 percent of the student population receive free lunch, have very little opportunity to experience a classic story through dance and music in a live performance. Their appreciation of literature and how it relates to their own lives and their community may also be limited. Additionally, second grade students may not have had a pet to care for or understand how an animal lives or what it eats. This project will use the story of *The Velveteen Rabbit* as a catalyst to experience literature in real life. It is the core curriculum from which writing, math, science, and community connections will radiate; this project will be highlighted with an attendance of the ODC Dance Company's production of the *Velveteen Rabbit*. It will allow the second graders at Fairmont Elementary to experience and bring *The Velveteen Rabbit* to life.

Detailed Project Description: Describe your project idea. Be sure to include examples of envisioned student activities. (350 words max)

Beginning with the reading of *The Velveteen Rabbit*, students will learn about performance arts through making banners and theatre brochures. They will utilize computer technology to write the brochures and art to make banners. Taking advantage of using BART transportation, students will draw maps, estimate the distance to the BART station from Fairmont Elementary School, and determine the actual distance using a distance measuring tool. Second graders will also augment their science curriculum by learning about the life cycle of mammals, using rabbits as an example. Students will learn about the humane treatment of animals and care of rabbits from a collaboration with a community store (RabbitEars) that specializes in the rescue of rabbits. Planting, growth, harvest, and a donation of carrots to RabbitEars will allow the students to give back to the community organization. Finally, the *Velveteen Rabbit* will take on another perspective as students write this story from a different point of view.

Project Objectives: Specifically state what students will learn and be able to do as a result of this grant. (250 words max)

At least 90% of the Fairmont Elementary School Second Graders will participate in the following:

1. Reading comprehension, literary response and analysis: through the reading of the story and seeing a live interpretation, students will be able to make predictions about the story. They will be also be able to present the story in another perspective (e.g. as written by the horse, the live rabbits, or the boy).
2. Writing strategies: students will write a letter to the author and RabbitEars (the rabbit rescue organization) using the correct syntax and format.
3. Life sciences: Students will be able to predict the life cycle of mammals using rabbits as an example. Students will also learn about the life cycle of plants (carrots) from their carrot plants. They will investigate the size of harvested carrots by measuring their length and using a graph to plot their data.
4. Connection to the community: Students will learn about the care of rabbits and humane treatment of animals from a community organization, RabbitEars, a pet supply store, that rescues bunnies. The students will contribute their harvest of carrots as a "thank you" for RabbitEars' educational visit.

Schedule of Events: Please include a time line of activities, starting in November, to show that the project is well-planned. (250 words max)

Quantitative student friendly project rubrics will be used to guide the following work.

November:

1. Reading of *The Velveteen Rabbit*. Writing projects and art banners will start.
2. Life cycle of mammals curriculum will begin.
3. A visit from Rabbit Ears, a pet-supply store in El Cerrito that also rescues small animals. Their visit will focus on literacy, being humane to animals and rabbit care.
4. Plant carrot seeds at the Fairmont Edible Garden. Care of carrots will be done by rotating garden caretakers in the classroom.

December:

1. Students will make theatre brochures and learn about theatre etiquette.
2. This project will culminate in a field trip to ODC's performance of *The Velveteen Rabbit* located in Yerba Buena Center for the Performing Arts. This organization uses music, dance and narrative to bring the story to life.
3. Harvest carrots. Provide carrots to Rabbit Ears in return for their educational presentation.
4. Write letters to thank RabbitEars for sharing their educational program.

Project Evaluation: How will you determine if your objectives have been met? Include at least one quantitative method. (250 words max)

The student friendly project rubrics used during events listed in the time line of activities will be the quantitative method to measure and determine if the objectives have been met. With each event, at least 90% of the students will complete at least 80% of the designated rubric criteria. Objectives will be met by:

1. Assessment of reading comprehension and writing conventions.
2. Survey the number of students that have not attended a live theatre performance and the number that was able to attend.
3. Assessment of math and science according to standards according to the state of California.
4. Written stories will be completed following standards based published format and displayed at the school office/library/El Cerrito library or RabbitEars.

Budget Outline: Please provide specific information on the materials to be purchased with the grant funds. (150 words max)

\$860: 84 performances to The Velveteen Rabbit. This includes 80 students, 4 teachers and 2 aides.
 $\$10 \times 86 = \860

\$140: BART tickets to Powell Station and back. (parents will make up rest of cost)
\$140 form parents

RabbitEar educational visits are free.

Measuring distance device will be borrowed from the sports coach.

Carrot seeds will be donated.

All other materials will be available at the school site.