PEZZETTINO, originally published in 1974, is a "little piece" from Leo Lionni’s collection and is back after being unavailable for the past 20 years. It is a delightful, reassuring tale for little children who wonder how they fit into the big world.

Classroom Lesson Ideas Based on the Themes of Leo Lionni

INDIVIDUALITY—In Pezzettino, the main character is trying to find his place in the world, only to find out that he is not a smaller piece of someone else. Instead, he realizes that he is a unique entity, just as each of us is. Have students work in small groups to put together a puzzle, creating a picture that someone else can’t. Ask students to explore their individuality by having them stamp their fingerprints onto a piece of paper and then using a magnifying glass to compare similarities and differences with a partner.

SHARING—After reading The Golden Wings, ask students how Toru felt being different at first. How did he overcome those feelings? How did Toru feel after helping others? Then discuss ways students can share their qualities to help others.

BEAUTY—In The Biggest House in the World, the little snail thinks that it is important to have the biggest house to be the most beautiful. But he learns an important lesson from his father that bigger doesn’t always mean better. Because with students that beauty is in the eye of the beholder and have them list the problems little snail encountered as a result of thinking that it is important to have the biggest house to be the most beautiful. But he learns an important lesson from his father that bigger doesn’t always mean better. Because with students that beauty is in the eye of the beholder and forces them to work together. Afterwards, they realize how much more they enjoy everything when they share. Discuss with students why it is important to share. How do they feel when someone shares? Then discuss ways students can share their qualities to help others.

COOPERATION—In the story Swimmy, Swimmy teaches his new friends a way to work together to overcome their biggest obstacle—the big fish. When the fish enter together in the form of a big fish, with Swimmy at the “top,” they are able to stay safe and experience all the wonderful sites in the sea together. Discuss the word cooperation and what it means. Then, have students work in small groups to put together a puzzle, creating a picture that someone else can’t. Ask students to explore their individuality by having them stamp their fingerprints onto a piece of paper and then using a magnifying glass to compare similarities and differences with a partner.

COMMUNITY—In Frederick, Frederick is a mouse whose community is working together to prepare for the difficult winter months. But as the others are working hard physically gathering corn, nuts, and straw, they question Frederick as to why he is not working. Frederick explains that he is working, however he is gathering sun rays, colors, and words. When the food runs low, they ask Frederick to share his “supplies” and when he does they are just as helpful. Discuss with students that, although Frederick has a different way of contributing to the community, he is still an important part of it. Have students make an art project using various items given to them in a checklist (buttons, string, paperclips, etc.).

EMPATHY—The letters in The Alphabet Tree have to work together to survive. They learn how to do that with the help of a wood bug and a caterpillar who convinces them not only to work together but to be meaningful. Discuss with students ways to work together for a greater good. Have students make cards and send them to a local nursing home or hospital to cheer up others in their community.

FRIENDSHIP—An Extraordinary Egg is a story about two unlikely friends, a frog named Donna and a green “chicken.” Despite their differences, these characters become inseparable friends when Donna is saved by the “chicken.” Discuss the importance of friendship and how nice it is to share experiences with friends. Have students sit in a circle and ask them to name one nice thing about the classroom friend to their right.

NAME: _______________________

I Am Special

Pezzettino realizes that just being himself is what makes him special. What makes you special? Draw a picture of yourself in the mirror. Write what special qualities you have on the lines below.

I am . . .

I have . . .

I can . . .

I love . . .

To read Pezzettino and other books by Leo Lionni, visit your local library or bookstore.

NAME: _______________________

A Rainbow of Friends

Alexander and Willy are true friends to the end in the story Alexander and the Wind-Up Mouse. Alexander wishes he could be a toy like Willy so that he will be loved, but Alexander makes a surprising choice so that the friends can remain happily together.

Who is your best friend? Write your name and your friend’s name on the hand.

Then color the hand in your favorite color and cut it out.

Your teacher will collect your hand and use it to create a classroom rainbow of friendship.

NAME: _______________________

NAME: _______________________

To read all the books in the Leo Lionni collection, visit your local library or bookstore.

www.randomhouse.com/teachers
How many of Leo Lionni’s classic titles have you read?

1. Alexander and the Wind-Up Mouse
2. The Color of His Eyes
3. A Rainbow of Friends
4. The Vitality of His Friends
5. The Vitality of His Friends
6. The Vitality of His Friends
7. The Vitality of His Friends
8. The Vitality of His Friends
9. The Vitality of His Friends
10. The Vitality of His Friends

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NAME: ____________________________

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Over four decades since his first picture book was published, Leo Lionni’s universal themes—individuality, sharing, beauty, peace, cooperation, community, diplomacy, and friendship—remain as fresh and relevant as ever. Lionni (1910–1999) was a four-time Caldecott Honor winner and the acclaimed author-illustrator of more than 40 children’s books. His world is one of magic, beauty, and the importance of appreciating the gifts you already have.

Pezzettino, originally published in 1970, is “a little place” from Leo Lionni’s collection and is back after being unavailable for the past 28 years. It is a delightful, reassuring tale for little children who wonder how they fit into the big world.

-Pezzettino

Classroom Lesson Ideas Based on the Themes of Leo Lionni

INDIVIDUALITY—In Pezettino, the main character is trying to find his place in the world, only to find out that he is not a smaller piece of someone else. Instead, he realizes that he is special and unique. Have students explore their individuality by having them stamp their fingerprints onto a piece of paper and then use a magnifying glass to compare similarities and differences with a partner.

SHARING—After reading Tico and the Golden Wings, ask students how Tico felt if he was different at first. How did he overcome those feelings? How did Tico feel after helping others? Then discuss ways students can share their qualities to help others.

BEAUTY—In The Biggest House in the World, the little snail thinks that it is important to have the biggest house to be the most beautiful. But he learns an important lesson from his father that bigger doesn’t always mean better. Because with students that beauty is in the eye of the beholder and have them list the problems little snail encountered as a result of wanting the “biggest house in the world.”

PEACE—It’s Mine is a story about peace, sharing, and friendship. Three frogs selfishly bicker all day long, yelling out “It’s mine!” until one day a big storm scares them and forces them to work together. Afterwards, they realize how much more they enjoy everything when they share. Discuss with students why it is important to share. How do they feel when someone shares and when someone doesn’t share? Have students make a list of ways students can share their qualities to help others.

COMMUNITY—In Frederick, Frederick is a mouse whose community is working together to prepare for the difficult winter months. But as the others are working hard physically gathering corn, nuts, and straw, they question Frederick as to why he is not working. Frederick explains that he is working, however he is gathering sun rays, colors, and words. When the food runs low, they ask Frederick to share his “supplies” and when he does they are just as helpful. Discuss with students that, although Frederick has a different way of contributing to the community, his efforts are still an important part of the whole. Discuss ways students can contribute to their community. Have students make a classroom rainbow of friendship, and ask them to name one nice thing about the classroom friend they value most. Discuss the word gratitude.

EXPLORATION—The letters in The Alphabet Tree have to work together to survive. They learn how to do that with the help of a wood bug and a caterpillar who convince them they need to work together for a greater good. Have students make a rainbow of friends and ask them to name one nice thing about the classroom friend they value most.

FRIENDSHIP—An Extraordinary Egg is a story about two unlikely friends, a frog named Dromis and a green “chicken.” Despite their differences, these characters become inseparable friends when Dromis is saved by the “chicken.” Discuss the importance of friendship and how nice it is to share experiences with friends. Have students make a classroom rainbow of friends and ask them to name one nice thing about the classroom friend they value most.

Cooperation—In Swimmy, the main character is trying to help others. With the help of other fish, they are able to stay together to survive. They learn how to do that with the help of a big fish. When the fish swim together in the form of a big fish, they are able to stay together. Have students make a classroom rainbow of friends and ask them to name one nice thing about the classroom friend they value most.

GLB: 0-375-92399-3
HC: 0-375-82399-9
PB: 0-679-87318-X

Alexander and the Wind-Up Mouse

Alexander wishes he could be a toy like Willy so that he will be loved, but Alexander makes a surprising choice so that the friends can remain happily together.

Who is your best friend? Write your name and your friend’s name on the hand.

Then color the hand in your favorite color and cut it out.

Your teacher will collect your hand and use it to create a classroom rainbow of friendship.

NAME: ______________________

NAME: ______________________

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I have . . .

I can . . .

I love . . .

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CELEBRATE THE WORLD OF LEO LIONNI

Over four decades since his first picture book was published, Leo Lionni’s universal themes—individuality, sharing, beauty, peace, cooperation, community, diplomacy, and friendship—remain as fresh and relevant as ever. Lionni (1910-1999) was a four-time Caldecott Honor winner and the acclaimed author-illustrator of more than 40 children’s books. His work is one of magic, beauty, and the importance of appreciating the gifts you already have.

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Classroom Lesson Ideas Based on the Themes of Leo Lionni

INDIVIDUALITY—In Pezzettino, the main character is trying to find his place in the world. Only to find out that he is not a smaller piece of someone else. Instead, he realizes that he is a unique being with his own special skills. Use this theme to explore their individuality by having them stamp their fingerprints onto a piece of paper and then use a magnifying glass to compare similarities and differences with a partner.

SHARING—After reading Tico and the Golden Wings, ask students how Tico felt to be different at first. How did he overcome these feelings? How did Tico feel after helping others? Then discuss ways students can share their qualities to help others.

BEAUTY—In The Biggest House in the World, the little snail thinks that it is important to have the biggest house to be the most beautiful. But he learns an important lesson from his father that bigger doesn’t always mean better. Because with students that beauty is in the eye of the beholder and have them list the problems little snail encountered as a result of thinking that it is important to have the biggest house to be the most beautiful. But he learns an important lesson from his father that bigger doesn’t always mean better. Because with students that beauty is in the eye of the beholder.

PEACE—It’s Mine is a story about peace, sharing, and friendship. Three frogs selfishly bicker all day long, yelling out “It’s mine!” until one day a big storm scares them and forces them to work together. Afterwards, they realize how much more they enjoy everything when they share. Discuss the letters in The Alphabet Tree have to work together to survive. They learn how to do this with the help of a wood bug and a caterpillar who convince them they need to work together more to be meaningful. Discuss with students ways to work together for a greater goal. Have students make cards and send them to a local nursing home or hospital to cheer up others in their community.

FRIENDSHIP—In Swimmy, the main character, Swimmy teaches his friends a way to work together to overcome their biggest obstacle—the big fish. When the fish swim together in the form of a big fish, with Swimmy as the “eye,” they are able to stay safe and experience all the wonderful sites in the sea together. Discuss the word cooperation and what it means. Then, have students work in small groups to put together a puzzle, create a mural, or create a glass project using various items given to them in a shoebox (buttons, string, paperclips, etc.).

COMMUNITY—In Frederick and Pezzettino, the main character is working together to prepare for the difficult winter months. But these two stories are sharing hard physical labor gathering corn, nuts, and atom; they question Frederick as to why he is not working. Frederick explains that he is working, however he is gathering sun rays, colors, and words. When the food runs low, they ask Frederick to share his “supplies” and when he does they are just as helpful. Discuss with students that, although Frederick has a different way of contributing to the community, he is just as helpful. Discuss with students ways they could contribute. Make a list of their ideas.

EXPLORATION—The letters in The Alphabet Tree have to work together to survive. They learn how to do this with the help of a wood bug and a caterpillar who convince them they need to work together more to be meaningful. Discuss with students ways to work together for a greater goal. Have students make cards and send them to a local nursing home or hospital to cheer up others in their community.

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I love . . .

I have . . .

I can . . .

I have . . .

I am . . .

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