

Animal Hedge Lessons

• Career Exploration •

by | Dr. Phyllis J. Perry

Additional Activities



Math

Ask students to share what occupations they think they may pursue as adults. Make a list of the careers on a chart or the chalkboard. Include the number of students who select each career. Then construct a bar graph with the number of students choosing a career along one axis and the name of the career along the other axis. Are there one or two favorite future careers among your group of students?

Oral Reports

Ask each student to give a brief oral report on an occupation that he or she might want to consider as a future career. Each student should read at least one book about a career of possible interest and take some notes, which may be used during the oral presentation.

Writing

If possible, ask students to interview someone who is working in a field they are interested in. First discuss in class some appropriate questions to ask during an interview, such as:

- Do you need to go to school or get special training to get a job in this field?
- What is the most interesting thing about your job?
- What part of your job do you like least. Why?
- Are you planning to stay in this career or do you plan to move into another field?
- What advice would you give to a young person who is considering this career?

Help students formulate and write a set of questions to take on their interviews. Ask students to write up their interview and share what they learned with the class.

Art

Ask each student to imagine that he or she is trimming the hedge from *The Animal Hedge* while thinking about a career choice. Ask each student to draw a picture of the trimmed hedge. Display this art in the classroom or media center.

Community Outreach

Your school or community may have a speaker's bureau, Chamber of Commerce, service club or other group that could help you line up two or three interesting people who would be willing to visit a class and share information about their fields of expertise. Sometimes parents or other relatives of students would be willing to visit class. Throughout the year, you might have community people visit and talk about their careers as doctors, dentists, attorneys, bus drivers, police officers, librarians, engineers, clerks, teachers, veterinarians and so forth. Be sure that students follow up any such visit with written thank-you notes.

Library Information Skills

Both Sid Fleischman and his son, Paul Fleischman, have won the Newbery Medal for their writing. Ask a small group of interested students to research this topic. What is the Newbery Medal? Who gives this award? Which books and authors have won this award in the last two years? What is a Newbery Honor Book? Have there been any Newbery Honor Books named in the past two years? Who were the authors and what are the titles of these Honor Books?

Students should take notes so that they can share the information they find with the other students.