



Sample Reader's Theater Lesson Plan for World Read Aloud Day

Text: The Kissing Hand by Audrey Penn

Script: By Janice Florentine

In **The Kissing Hand**, Chester, a raccoon, dreads the day he must leave his mommy to go to school. Chester does not want to leave his familiar surroundings. Chester's mom explains to him that he will make new friends and play with new toys. Despite his mom's persuasive arguments, Chester does not want to leave his mom. Suddenly, Chester's mom has an idea. She tells him she has a family secret that will help him while he is at school. It is *The Kissing Hand*. She gives Chester a special kiss on his hand. Chester is so pleased with his mother's kiss; he gives her a kiss of his own so she won't miss him either. **Discussion:** Raccoons are mainly nocturnal animals. In this story you will notice that Chester goes to school at night and Hoot, an owl, is his teacher.

Text:

The Kissing Hand by Audrey Penn

Characters:

Chester

Chester's Mom

Narrator

Hoot the Owl- Chester's Teacher

Chester: Boo Hoo, Boo Hoo (Chester cries). Please don't make me go to school Mommy. I will miss you too much.

Chester's Mom: Chester, my dear. You will have so much fun. Just think about all the new friends you will meet and all the new things you will learn. Oh, it will be so exciting.

Narrator: Chester thought carefully about what his mother told him.

Chester: Mommy, I will miss my friends. What will happen to my toys and my stories? How will I play outside? Boo Hoo, Boo Hoo.

Narrator: Chester continued to cry hoping his mother wouldn't make him go to school.

Chester's Mom: I know it seems a little scary right now. Just give it a try and you will have fun. Trying new things isn't always easy but I know this school will be great.

Chester: What if I don't like it?

Chester's Mom: School will have toys, friends, and time to play outside. During the day you will play with your things at home and then at night you will play at school. Learning new things is very exciting.

Narrator: Chester's mom tried very hard to convince Chester to give school a try. She knew Hoot the teacher would take good care of him at night. She suddenly had an idea.

Chester's Mom: Chester, come with me. I have a secret.

Chester: A secret! What is it?

Chester's Mom: This is a special secret my mom told me when I went to school for the first time. Everyone in our family learns the secret before they go to school for the first time.

Narrator: Chester waited anxiously for his mom to tell him the big secret.

Chester's Mom: The secret is the Kissing Hand.

Chester: The kissing what?

Chester's Mom: The Kissing Hand. I'll pass the secret to you right now.

Narrator: Chester's mom gently held his hand with his palm facing the sky and swooped down and gave his palm a great big kiss.

Chester's Mom: Smack! (a kissing sound)

Chester: Oooh, eeeh! (giggling) That kiss tickled. I love it mommy.

Chester's Mom: I love you, too Chester. When you go to school tonight and you feel lonely just remember the Kissing Hand. You can even press your cheek to your hand and feel my kiss. Every time you look at your hand you will know Mommy loves you.

Chester: I will bring your kiss with me every night.

Narrator: A smile spread over Chester's face. He admired his hand all day long. He knew when he went to school he would not be lonely anymore. He would always have his mother's kiss.

Chester: Mommy, I have a secret for you, too.

Chester's Mom: Oh Chester, what is your secret?

Chester: Close your eyes, and give me your hand. Smack! (kiss)

Narrator: Chester gave his mommy a great big kiss on her hand.

Chester's Mom: What a nice secret.

Chester: I don't want you to be scared when I go to school. Now you have your own Kissing Hand.

Narrator: Chester dashed off to school for the first time that night. At home his mom pressed her hand gently to her cheek and felt Chester's love.