

Chicken in the Kitchen

Title	Chicken in the Kitchen by Nnedi Okorafor
Name of teacher who created the curriculum	Tiffany Maltos and Laura Knotte
Objective	To learn about the New Yam festival and how art helps us learn about other cultures.
Materials provided by SCT	Book, drum

****This lesson is written to be instructed at Frye Art Museum.**

Room Setup: Large open space in a gallery

Entrance/Transition Activity:

Teaching Artist introductions and ritual set up. "Here at Small Frye we pat the ground, we pat our knees, we point up, down, at Teaching Artist, at Assistant." We are ready to tell a story together!

Warm-up/ Motivation:

The TAs cannot tell a story today because there is a chicken in the art museum! The chicken moves so fast, it's hard to see. Have students look left and right to see if they can see the chicken.

What is the chicken doing here? Does it know what to do in the museum? We need to share with it what we do at Small Frye. We need to catch the chicken.

Transition to story:

Attempt #1

Attempt #2

This is a BIG PROBLEM!

Story:

There is no repeating line for this book.

Dramatic Play:

Aha! Anyaugo spoke to a Wood Wit, a nature spirit, to ask for help. Is there someone we could visit to ask for help?

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The Wise Old Woman!

Travel to the W.O.W (played by a TA) and ask her for help on how to get the chicken to settle and tell us why it is here. The W.O.W asks small Frye Friends if they've tried singing to the chicken and if they've tried sneaking up to catch it. Friends should share that they've tried it and it didn't work. The W.O.W suggests if they've spoken Chicken to the chicken. Friends must speak to the chicken to get its attention. Together, practice a sentence in Chicken and then travel back to Frye.

As a group, speak a sentence of Chicken aloud. The chicken has settled and speaks back! The TAs (one playing the chicken) transition from Chicken to English so the following conversation is understandable.

Suggested dialogue

TA: Chicken, why are you here?

Chicken: I have to tell everyone about the New Yam festival I learned about.

TA: New Yam Festival? That sounds fun! What is it?

Chicken: It is a celebration in West Africa. It happens in August to mark the end of a harvest and the beginning of the next season. There are dances, foods, and art that celebrate the cultures of the region and yams, which are an important crop to the area.

TA: Dances and food and art! That sounds like a great festival!

Chicken: I love learning about other cultures in others areas of the world! I'm just a chicken so I know chicken-things, but there is so much more out there that I want to learn. Like did you know, in some cultures Chickens are very important?

TA: Yes, in a book we just read there was a Chicken that was a masquerade spirit.

Chicken: Yes! I learned that during the New Yam Festival masquerades spirits are very important.

TA: Thank you for sharing! Like you, we want to learn about new cultures around the world.

Chicken: That's why I came to the Frye because there is art from all over the world here to teach me about other cultures that I don't know about...yet!

TA: That's why we're here too! Maybe we should explore the museum later and learn together.

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Chicken can say its goodbyes and transition back to a TA with...

Reflection:

Story Drama drum! This means we have told a story together. Question: What do you like to celebrate?

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