

BOOK STATS

Grade Level Equivalent: K-2 Ages: 4-8

Lexile Measure: AD440L Pages: 32

Genre: Cumulative Story / Picture Book

Subject/Theme: Autumn, Seasons, Nonsense Stories

Common Core Standards	Reading	Writing	Listening & Speaking	Language
Kindergarten	RL.K.1, RL.K.2, RL.K.3, RL.K.4, RL.K.5, RL.K.6, RL.K.7, RL.K.10	W.1.3	SL.K.1, SL.K.3, SLK.5	LK.4
Grade 1	RL.1.1, RL.1.2, RL.1.3, RL.1.5, RL.1.7, RL.1.9	W.1.3	SL.1.1, SL.1.2, SL.1.4	L.1.4
Grade 2	RL.2.1, RL.2.2, RL.2.4, RL. 2.5, RL.2.7	W.2.3	SL.2.2, SL.2.4, SL.2.5	L.2.4

OVERVIEW

Book Summary

On the opening page of *There Was an Old Lady Who Swallowed Some Leaves*, the old lady leans back to swallow a pile of leaves falling from the sky. After that, this wacky, imaginative, cumulative tale just gets sillier and sillier.

Each time the old lady swallows something new, the cumulative text repeats the past things she has swallowed in reverse sequence and ends with foreshadowing: “Perhaps she’ll sneeze!” Through the story, the old lady swallows a shirt, a pumpkin, a pole, some pants, a rope, and some hay.

Then, as predicted from the start, the old lady sneezes. All the things she has swallowed fly out of her mouth accompanied by a big “ACHOO!” On the last page, readers find out why the old lady swallowed all those strange things – they come together to make an autumn scarecrow.

Teaching the Book

There Was An Old Lady Who Swallowed Some Leaves is a humorous variation on the popular cumulative story/song, “I Know an Old Lady Who Swallowed a Fly.” The book provides a perfect opportunity to teach cumulative story structure, nonsense rhyming, and sequence of events. Activities will engage students in creative language play and cumulative story writing.

Genre Focus: Humorous Cumulative Story

Comprehension Focus: Sequence of Events

Language Focus: Rhyming

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Lucille Colandro has delighted children by keeping the old lady busy swallowing a variety of strange objects. Colandro’s series celebrates the seasons, holidays, and even the first day of school.

ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

Jared Lee is the award-winning illustrator of over 80 books for young readers. He is best known for his “Black Lagoon” series.

Get Ready to Read

Pre-Reading Activities

Cumulative Stories Some children will already be familiar with the traditional story, “There Was an Old Lady Who Swallowed a Fly.” All students will enjoy hearing a reading of it or a song version. The text and melody is available at <http://kids.niehs.nih.gov/games/songs/childrens/swallflymid.htm>

Read the story, and encourage students to chime in with the cumulative parts. Then ask:

How is this story different from most stories?

What is special about the way the author wrote it?

Guide students to describe how the story repeats past things the old lady swallowed each time she swallows a new thing. Explain that this is called a cumulative story because it retells each part of the story that has already happened.

Preview and Predict Ask students to look at the cover of *There Was an Old Lady Who Swallowed Some Leaves*. Have them guess what other things this old lady might swallow in the story.

Vocabulary

Rhyming Words Ask students to watch for the following pairs of rhyming words as they read the book. Encourage them to look for clues in the text and illustrations for the meaning of any words they don't know.

Use **Resource #1: Vocabulary Cards** on p. 7 and distribute copies to students.

leaves / sneeze

hurt / shirt

pumpkin / bumpkin

pole / roll

pants / dance

mope / rope

say / hay



BIG QUESTION

Critical Thinking Ask students to think about the following question as they read and to be ready to answer it when they've finished the book. Write the question on chart paper or have students write it in their reading journals.

Why is the old lady eating all these strange things?





As You Read

Reading the Book

Modeled Reading Model a fluent reading of the book, emphasizing the rhyming in the cumulative text that creates humor and also cues students to remember the story's sequence of events.

Shared Reading Reread the book, this time encouraging students to fill in the sequence of items that the old lady swallows. You might want to assign one student to each item, and have students fill in their part of the sequence each time it is read. The group can chorally read, "Perhaps she'll sneeze!"

Comprehension Focus

Sequence of Events Explain to students that when events in a story happen in a certain order, they follow a sequence. Keeping track of what happens first, next, and last helps readers understand a story.

Use the graphic organizer on **Resource #2: Sequence of Events** to model for students how to track the sequence of events in a cumulative story. Project the page on a whiteboard or pass out copies to students. Then model for students how to identify the sequence of events in the story.

Model: What happened first in the story? Right at the beginning, the old lady swallowed some leaves. I'll write leaves for number 1, because it's first. What happened next? Next she swallowed a shirt, so I'll write shirt for number 2. You help me fill in the rest of the sequence in the story.

Have students volunteer the sequence of events in the rest of the story and complete the organizer. (Answers: 1. *leaves*, 2. *shirt*, 3. *pumpkin*, 4. *pole*, 5. *pants*, 6. *rope*, 7. *hay*)

After You Read

Questions to Discuss

Lead students in a discussion of these focus story elements.

- Cumulative Story** Why did the old lady swallow each of the things in the story? Why did she swallow the shirt? the pumpkin? the pole? the pants? the rope? (*She swallowed the shirt to fill it with leaves, etc.*)
- Sequence of Events** What did the old lady swallow first, next, and last? Draw pictures of all the things in the correct sequence. (*leaves, shirt, pumpkin, pole, pants, rope, hay*)
- Rhymes** What rhyming word would describe what the old lady would do if she swallowed a snake? a pump? a top? (*shake, jump, hop*)

WORDS TO KNOW

Riddles and Rhymes

Begin by having students match the vocabulary cards that rhyme. Then ask them the following riddles based on the Word List. The riddles include a rhyming clue and a meaning clue. Have students volunteer the answers or hold up the vocabulary cards that answer each riddle.

- ❖ They rhyme with sneeze and fall from trees. (*leaves*)
- ❖ It rhymes with shirt and means to feel pain. (*hurt*)
- ❖ It rhymes with pumpkin and is an awkward country person. (*bumpkin*)
- ❖ It rhymes with pole and means to move along quickly. (*roll*)
- ❖ It rhymes with pants and means to move to music. (*dance*)
- ❖ It rhymes with rope and means to act gloomy. (*mope*)
- ❖ It rhymes with say and is food for horses. (*hay*)

Questions to Share

Encourage students to share their responses with a partner or small group.

- 1. Text to Self** What is your favorite illustration in the book? Explain what you like about it.
- 2. Text to World** What might the old lady swallow if the story was set in the winter or summer? What could the things turn into at the end of the story?
- 3. Text to Text** Could an old lady really eat all the things in the story? Why did the author have her do that?

Extension Activities

Reading/Writing Connection

Nonsense Rhymes The “Old Lady” story gives students an opportunity to play around with rhyming words, no matter how silly. Write this frame on the whiteboard or chart paper:

“There was an old lady who swallowed a _____.
She _____ when she swallowed the _____.”

With students, make a list of animals or things the old lady could swallow. Then list words that rhyme;

for example: *pig* and *jig*, *pie* and *try*, *shoe* and *clue*, *bat* and *fat*. Then have students fill in the frame three or four times with their own nonsense rhymes.

Don't forget the



BIG QUESTION

Critical Thinking Give each student an opportunity to answer the big question. Encourage students to support their answers with details and evidence from the text. Tell them there is no one right answer.

Why is the old lady eating all these strange things?



Content Area Connections

Math Hidden Animals Ask partners to count the number of animals in each of the following illustrations: when the old lady swallows leaves, a shirt, a pumpkin, a pole, pants, a rope, and hay.

Health Eating and the Seasons Have students choose a season and make a list of their favorite foods from that season. For example, fall foods include apples, winter foods include soup, spring foods include salad, summer foods include tomatoes and watermelon.

Social Studies Scarecrows Ask students what a scarecrow is. Prompt them to think about its name to figure out what a scarecrow does. Explain that farmers used scarecrows to scare away crows or other birds from seeds or growing plants.

Arts Sing-Along There are many recordings of “I Know an Old Lady Who Swallowed a Fly,” the most well known being Burl Ives’s traditional rendition. Locate a recording of the song in a library or online and play it for students. Encourage them to sing along, particularly to the cumulative verses.

BIG ACTIVITY

An Old Lady Story Make copies of the printable, “Big Activity: There Was an Old Lady,” on p. 5 and distribute to students. Read the directions to students and answer questions to clarify the activity.

Complete the activity by having students share their Old Lady stories. Encourage them to make a tape recording of themselves telling their story to share with their families.

Name _____

Date _____

BIG ACTIVITY: There Was an Old Lady

Write your own Old Lady story. List five things that the old lady will swallow. Then draw and label what those five things will make at the end of the story. Tell your story to a partner.

1. There was an old lady who swallowed a _____.
2. There was an old lady who swallowed a _____.
3. There was an old lady who swallowed a _____.
4. There was an old lady who swallowed a _____.
5. There was an old lady who swallowed a _____.

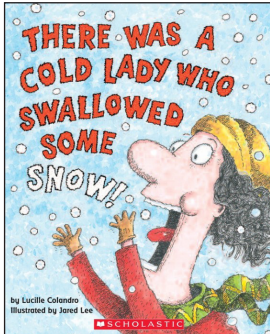
And then she _____!

Draw your picture here.

READ MORE AND LEARN MORE

Use these books and other resources to expand your students' study of the book or theme.

Author Connections



There Was a Cold Lady Who Swallowed Some Snow

Lucille Colandro / Jared Lee

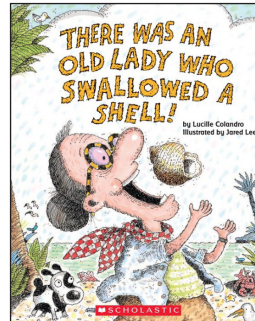
Ages: 3-8

Grade Level: PK-3

Lexile Level: 400L

This cold lady is swallowing snow, a pipe, some coal, and more. The rhyming text and funny illustrations carry the story along to a

surprise ending. **Available as a Storia e-book**



There Was an Old Lady Who Swallowed a Shell

Lucille Colandro / Jared Lee

Age: 3-8

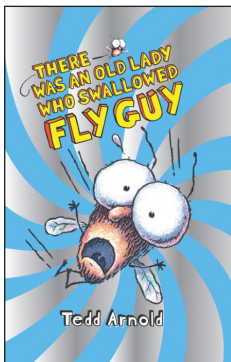
Grade Level: PK-3

Lexile Level: 400L

This beach-themed book takes the traditional nonsense rhyme to new heights of hilarity. With rollicking rhymes and funny illustrations,

this lively, sun-soaked version of the classic song invites participation. **Available as a Storia e-book**

Genre Connections



There Was an Old Lady Who Swallowed Fly Guy

Tedd Arnold

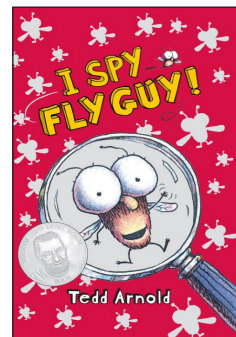
Ages: 4-8

Grades: PK-3

Lexile Level: 420L

Buzz is visiting Grandma, and Fly Guy comes along for the ride. Grandma swallows Fly Guy, then a spider, then a bird, then a cat, then a dog. . . . Finally, Fly Guy shouts:

“BUZZZ!” He flies out, and all the critters follow. **Available as a Storia e-book**



Fly Guy #7: I Spy Fly Guy

Tedd Arnold

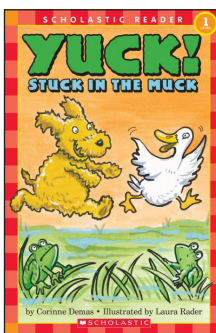
Ages: 3-8

Grades: PK-3

Lexile Level: 420L

A silly game of hide-and-seek turns into a stinky search at the town dump! While playing around one day, Fly Guy hides from Buzz in a garbage can—and is carried off by

the garbage man! Will they ever see each other again? **Available as a Storia e-book**



Scholastic Reader Level 1: Yuck! Stuck in the Muck

Corrine Demas

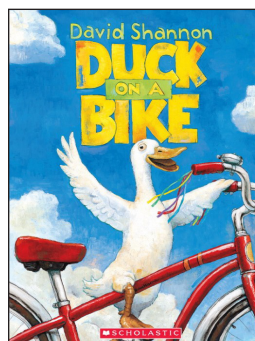
Ages: 4-8

Grades: PK-3

Dog chases Duck into the swamp, setting off a very muddy chain of events. One by one, each character gets stuck while trying to help another.

At last, a helicopter rescues them, and Duck flies back to build a nest on the still-stuck truck!

Available as a Storia e-book



Duck on a Bike

David Shannon

Ages: 4-8

Grades: PK-3

Lexile Level: 240L

In this tale filled with bright and cheerful illustrations, Duck discovers the joys of bike riding—and soon the other animals join in!

Available as a Storia e-book

Go to www.Scholastic.com/storia-corner to find PDF versions of the Storia teacher guides and links to purchase the related books.

leaves

sneeze

shirt

hurt

pumpkin

bumpkin

pole

roll

pants

dance

rope

mope

hay

say

Resource #2: Sequence of Events

Name _____

Date _____

What did the old lady swallow first? Next? Last? Fill in the sequence of events.

1. There was an old lady who swallowed _____.

2. There was an old lady who swallowed _____.

3. There was an old lady who swallowed _____.

4. There was an old lady who swallowed _____.

5. There was an old lady who swallowed _____.

6. There was an old lady who swallowed _____.

7. There was an old lady who swallowed _____.

And then she started to sneeze. ACHOO!

What happened next?