

Objective

By the end of this lesson, you will be able to analyze and understand Lewis Carroll's poem "Turtle Soup" through various activities and discussions.

Materials and Prep

- A printed copy of Lewis Carroll's poem "Turtle Soup"
- A notebook or paper for taking notes
- A pen or pencil

Activities

- **Activity 1: Reading and Initial Thoughts**
Read the poem "Turtle Soup" by Lewis Carroll silently. Take note of any initial thoughts or questions that come to mind while reading.
- **Activity 2: Vocabulary Exploration**
Identify any unfamiliar words or phrases in the poem. Look up their meanings and write them down. Discuss their significance in the context of the poem.
- **Activity 3: Analyzing Structure and Rhyme Scheme**
Examine the structure of the poem. Identify the rhyme scheme and any patterns in the stanzas. Discuss how the structure contributes to the overall meaning and effect of the poem.
- **Activity 4: Imagery and Symbolism**
Explore the vivid imagery and symbolism used in the poem. Discuss the possible interpretations and meanings behind the turtle, the soup, and other elements mentioned in the poem.
- **Activity 5: Personal Response**
Write a personal response to the poem. Reflect on your understanding of the poem's themes, messages, and your overall impression of the poem.

Talking Points

- **Introduction to Lewis Carroll:** Lewis Carroll was the pen name of Charles Lutwidge Dodgson, an English writer, mathematician, and photographer. He is best known for his works of children's literature, including "Alice's Adventures in Wonderland" and "Through the Looking-Glass."
- **Understanding the Poem's Title:** The title "Turtle Soup" may initially sound strange or unusual. It is important to consider the context and symbolism behind the title, as it sets the tone for the poem.
- **Exploring Carroll's Wordplay:** Carroll was known for his clever wordplay and unconventional use of language. Discuss how he plays with words and creates unique and imaginative expressions in "Turtle Soup."
- **Analyzing the Structure:** The poem consists of six stanzas, each with four lines. Explore the rhyme scheme and patterns within each stanza. Consider how the structure contributes to the overall flow and impact of the poem.
- **Interpreting the Imagery:** The poem is filled with vivid imagery, such as the "mock turtle" and the "soup of the evening." Encourage the student to analyze the possible meanings and symbolism behind these images.
- **Themes and Messages:** Discuss the themes and messages that the poem explores, such as the nature of reality, the passage of time, and the power of imagination. Encourage the student to share their own interpretations and insights.