

## Objective

By the end of this lesson, Zac will gain a deeper understanding of the themes in "Where the Red Fern Grows," explore the historical context of the setting, apply math concepts through real-world problem solving, engage in physical activities inspired by the book, and conduct simple science experiments related to the environment depicted in the story.

## Materials and Prep

- A copy of "Where the Red Fern Grows"
- Paper and colored pencils or markers
- Basic math supplies (pencil, eraser, ruler)
- Access to a safe outdoor space for physical activities
- Simple science experiment supplies (e.g., soil, seeds, water)

Before the lesson, ensure that Zac has read the first few chapters of the book to familiarize himself with the characters and setting.

## Activities

- **Art: Create a Character Collage**

Zac will create a collage representing the main characters of the book using drawings, magazine cutouts, or illustrations. He can focus on the traits and qualities that make each character unique.

- **History: Research the Setting**

Zac will research the Ozark Mountains and the historical context of the 1930s in America. He can write a short paragraph about what life was like during that time and how it influences the story.

- **Math: Hunting and Gathering Problem Solving**

Zac will create a math problem based on the hunting and gathering theme of the book. For example, he can calculate how many raccoons he would need to catch to fill a certain number of traps, using multiplication and division.

- **Physical Education: Outdoor Adventure**

Zac will engage in a physical activity inspired by the book, such as a scavenger hunt in the backyard or a local park, mimicking the outdoor adventures of the characters.

- **Science: Plant Growth Experiment**

Zac will plant seeds in soil and observe their growth over time. He can keep a journal of the changes, relating it to the themes of growth and perseverance in the story.

## Talking Points

- "What do you think the red fern symbolizes in the story? It's often seen as a sign of something special."
- "How do you think the setting of the Ozark Mountains affects the characters' lives? Can you imagine living there?"

- "In the book, the main character has to work hard for what he wants. What are some things you have worked hard for?"
- "Why do you think the author chose to write about dogs? How do they contribute to the story?"
- "Let's think about the math problem we created. How does understanding numbers help us in real-life situations, like hunting or gathering?"
- "What are some physical activities you enjoy? How do they relate to the adventures in the book?"
- "As we plant our seeds, what do you think they need to grow? How does this relate to the themes of growth and perseverance in the story?"