

CATCH a spark!

Using children's literature to SPARK CREATIVITY



Perfect Square

Written and Illustrated by Michael Hall
40 pages / Grades K-1

Be sure you have lots of colored paper available when you read this book about all the things you can do with a square! Students will want to try everything for themselves as they learn new techniques for art and working with paper, while connecting to math and various artistic tools in this fun, playful book that blends fact with story.

C

Context

A fun and playful look at **geometry**. Think big! Talk about so much more than squares - corners, length, width, and rectangles. A great book to introduce **tangrams**.

Colors

Days of the Week

What does **perfect** mean?

Visualization and imagination - how can one thing, such as a square, be seen in multiple ways?

Repurposing and reimagining.

A

Arts

Techniques for working with **paper** include hole punching, shredding, tearing, cutting, ripping, wrinkling.

Colors - encourage students to think about why certain colors were chosen with certain features.

T

Themes

Transformation

Being "perfect"

Reimagining and repurposing.

C

Create

Give students a shape each day and let them repurpose it, like the events of the book. Allow them to add a *little* more to the new creation, and to write a sentence about it. Give them as little guidance as possible to foster their own imagination and creativity.

Challenge students to find shapes repurposed in their surroundings.

H

Heart Words

"...it waited to see what would happen."

".....it babbled and giggled and clapped."

After reading the book and allowing students to reimagine a new creation, have them write a sentence of their own heart words about it.

