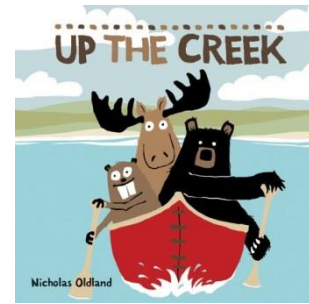


Up the Creek

By Nicholas Oldland

“The bear, the moose and the beaver are the best of friends, even though they often disagree. On a canoe trip, the trio's squabbling leads them into rough waters. Can they agree on a plan before it's too late?”

– goodreads.com



Art: Find a large cardboard box that the children can use to make a canoe. Ask the children how they might need to work together to create the canoe.

Dramatic Play: After you have read the story a few times, have children come up to the front during large group time and act out the story as you read it. Have materials available in the dramatic play area so the children can also act out parts of the story on their own (e.g. moose antlers, bear costume).

Games: Create a matching game using the attached template. Children can match the problem to the solution that the animals found in the story. This can be played as a guessing game or a memory match game.

Gross Motor: Modify the game “Bow, Stern” to reflect the actions in the story. Call out the traditional “bow,” “stern,” “port,” and “starboard,” and add in commands like, “row the oars,” “portage,” “ride the rapids,” and “take a nap.” Choose suitable actions for each command.

Literacy: talk about new words the children may not be familiar with such as “stern,” “port,” “portage.” Let the children know there is another new word that this book is about, even though it doesn't say what that word is. Talk about how the animals worked together to solve their problems—the answer to a problem is called the “solution.” Ask if the children have heard this word before. Use these, and other new words from the story, at the writing centre in the room. Use the word “solution” as often as you can throughout the day.

Everyone wanted to steer; the boat tipped over.



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Animals played Eeny-Meeny-Miny-Moe;
Moose got to steer.



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Everyone paddled on the left side;
they traveled in circles.



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The animals started switching sides when their
arms got tired, and then they went straight.



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They tried to push and pull the canoe on land,
but it wouldn't move.



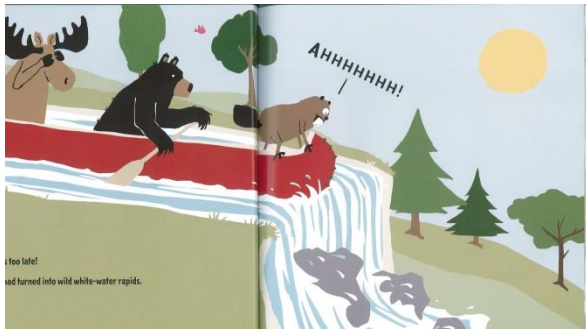
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They used portage to get across the land.



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All the animals started to argue,
and they ended up in the rapids.



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The animals decided to work together,
and made it to shore.



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