



Lesson: Classic New Hampshire Children's Books

(To follow Amplify CKLA K, Knowledge 3: Stories, Lesson 2: The Three Little Pigs)

At a Glance

In this lesson, students reinforce their understanding of story structure by listening and responding to *Ox-Cart Man* by Donald Hall.

Primary Focus Objectives

- Students will discuss and connect to a read aloud text.
- Students will learn about an important New Hampshire author.
- Students will sequence the events of a literary text.

Formative Assessment

- "Sequence It" activity

Standards

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.K.1

Participate in collaborative conversations with diverse partners about kindergarten topics and texts with peers and adults in small and larger groups.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.K.3

With prompting and support, identify characters, settings, and major events in a story.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.K.3

Use a combination of drawing, dictating, and writing to narrate a single event or several loosely linked events, tell about the events in the order in which they occurred, and provide a reaction to what happened.

Materials

- Focus Text: *Ox-Cart Man* by Donald Hall (Puffin Books, 1983) or online read aloud
- Focus Text Facts: Donald Hall
- Map: New Hampshire Town Boundaries
- "Sequence It" worksheet

Time Needed

Two 30-40 minute class sessions

Learning Activity

1. **Read the Focus Text.** Read aloud *Ox-Cart Man* by Donald Hall and illustrated by Barbara Cooney. While reading, make a list of some of the things the farmer does during the story. (15 minutes)
2. **Read Focus Text Facts.** Read about New Hampshire author Donald Hall. (10 minutes)
3. **Explore a map.** Find key locations from the story and Donald Hall's life on the New Hampshire map. Discuss where the farmer may have started his journey to Portsmouth. (10 minutes)
4. **Sequence the story events.** Students will sequence what happened in the beginning, middle, and end of the book. (30 minutes)



Educator Rationale and Answer Guide

Connection to Amplify

In these lessons, students reinforce their understanding of story sequence with a beloved New Hampshire picture book. By reading and discussing *Ox-Cart Man*, using sequencing words, students will be able to retell the story while thinking about the basic structure of beginning, middle, and end. Students will have an opportunity to extend the sequencing activity by adding words to explain how the main character was feeling throughout the parts of the book.

Read the story

Before reading, tell students that the story is set in New Hampshire, long ago. Discuss ideas about when this book takes place. Students might notice things about the pictures that help support reasons why they think this book took place a long time ago. While reading, using sequencing words like *first*, *next*, *then*, and *last* will help children sequence the story in later activities. If you are not able to find a print copy of the book, there are several good read aloud recordings available online.

Learn about Donald Hall

Share the details from Focus Text Facts: Donald Hall with students. They may have questions about the term “poet laureate.” Explain that this means he was recognized as the most important poet in the country.

Plot the story along the way

Project or display the map of town boundaries. Find Portsmouth on the map. Then talk about what it would be like to walk 10 days somewhere. Where do they think the ox-cart man started? Find Wilmot on the map. This is where Donald Hall lived in his farmhouse. Students might surmise that the ox-cart man started walking in Wilmot where Donald was from. Find the city or town where your school is located and discuss whether it is closer to or farther away from Portsmouth. This could lead to a discussion about different places students walk and how long it takes.

Extension: If students are ready to think about scale and maps, ask them to consider this: if the farmer walked about 8 miles a day with his ox and cart and he walked for 10 days, he would walk 80 miles in all from his farm to Portsmouth. Use the scale on the map to find locations that are about 80 miles away from Portsmouth.

This is a good place to pause if dividing the lesson across two class sessions.

Sequence the story events

Students will remember the beginning, middle, and end of this story and will draw the book parts in order. Through this formative assessment, you will be able to see what pieces of the story they remembered. If you choose to extend this activity, students could write a sentence about each part of the trip describing how they thought the ox-cart man felt during each part of the story. (See additional writing sheet.) There are two options for the sequence illustrations. Pick the one that fits your students the best.

Extension: Practice the sequencing activity with another picture book by a classic New Hampshire author, such as Tasha Tudor or Tomie dePaola. Read about the author’s life and locate where they lived on the New Hampshire map.



Donald Hall



Donald Hall lived in Wilmot, New Hampshire. He wrote poetry, books for children and adults, biographies, plays, and essays. He was a Red Sox fan and also wrote two books about baseball. He won many awards for his writing. He was the poet laureate of New Hampshire from 1984 to 1989 and the poet laureate of the United States from 2006 to 2007. Donald Hall lived from 1928 to 2018.

When Donald was a child, he lived in Connecticut and spent summers visiting his grandparents in Wilmot. He loved helping out on their farm and listening to stories about life in New Hampshire long ago.



Eagle Pond Farm, Donald Hall's home in Wilmot. Source: www.AtEaglePond.org



Donald bought his grandparents' farmhouse when he was an adult. He lived and wrote there for the rest of his life. One of the many things he wrote was a poem called "Ox-Cart Man" about a New Hampshire farmer. He later turned the poem into the book *Ox-Cart Man*. He also wrote books about his mother's childhood in Wilmot and New Hampshire traditions like *Old Home Day*.



Mason's Challenge

New Hampshire has been home to many children's authors. Read another classic by Tasha Tudor or Tomie DePaola. Or, try a book by an author writing today!



NEW HAMPSHIRE TOWN BOUNDARIES

Boundaries

- State Boundary
- County Boundary
- Town Boundary



0 27 miles





Sequence It!

Draw what happened in the story.

Beginning
First...

Middle
Next...

End
Last...



Write More!

Use feeling words to tell more about the main character.

In the beginning the ox-cart man felt...

In the middle, the ox-cart man felt...



At the end, the ox-cart man felt...

If I were the ox-cart man, I would...
