

Wild Dog Books

Teachers’ Notes

Senses CloseUp

Synopsis

Senses are how we learn about the world around us. They shape our day-to-day experiences in positive and negative ways. They cause us distress, they ward us from danger, they provide us with knowledge, comfort and delight. The five senses—sight, sound, taste, smell and touch—allow us to process the never-ending stream of information the world has to offer. This information is received and processed by our sense organs: the eyes, ears, nose, tongue and skin. These sense organs deliver messages to the brain where they are deciphered and turned into information that makes sense. Our senses are crucial to our understanding of what it is to be alive.

Writing style

*Senses* *Close Up* has been designed with the needs of very early readers and reluctant readers in mind. The subject matter is easily identifiable to the reader’s own experiences, allowing them to digest the information with ease. Text is succinct and simple, with no more than a few sentences on a page. The large format images relate directly to the text, so young readers have multiple entry points to engaging with the information. There is a glossary and index in the back of the book, which will aid young readers in developing the tools of research and analysis.

Photographic style

The *CloseUp* series uses photographs that bring the viewer close to the subject that is being discussed. These photographs also have the advantage that the image is static, giving the reader the opportunity to explore the image and look at the subject matter and its features in detail. The photographs are also strongly composed and clearly printed with bright strong colours to increase the appeal to visual readers. Readers can explore how photographs are used to convey messages.

Study notes

Themes:

* Senses
* Sense organs
* Human body
* Working relationship between brain and body
* Different ways of experiencing the world
* When senses are impaired
* Descriptive words

Curriculum link: Literacy

Before reading *Senses CloseUp*:

* Brainstorm what students know about senses. Can they name them all? Which parts of the body do they use for each sense? How do they work?

While reading *Senses CloseUp*:

* Ask the students to take turns reading a paragraph aloud to the rest of the class. Where appropriate, ask the students what they think certain words may mean.
* Ask the students to keep a table list of the different senses and how they work. In one column put the sense and in the second column list the part/s of the body that are used to make that sense work.

After reading *Senses CloseUp*:

* Ask the students to reflect on the words they would use to describe each sense. Ask them to draw up a list of descriptive words that can be used for each sense.

Curriculum Theme: Critical and Creative Thinking

After reading *Senses CloseUp* ask the students the following questions:

* Why are our senses important? How do they help us?
* What are some examples of when our senses reward us? (e.g. food tastes delicious, liking a colour etc)
* What are some examples of when our senses punish us? (e.g. bad smells, scraped knee etc)
* How might our senses keep us from doing something dangerous?
* What are examples of our senses not working properly? (e.g. having a cold, wearing gloves etc)
* Ask the students to brainstorm a list of their own experiences that relate to each sense. Ask students to create a poster outlining their findings.

Curriculum link: ICT Capability

After reading *Senses CloseUp*:

* Organise the class into five groups. Assign each group a different sense and ask them to research that sense online. Ask the children to look for and print different images relating to each sense e.g. for smell look for pictures of the nose, flowers, skunk, dirty clothes etc.
* Ask each group to create a poster collage. Ask them to attach the images they found and to write a short sentence explaining the relationship between the image and the sense.

Curriculum Theme: Personal and Social Capability

After reading *Senses CloseUp*:

* Organise the class into two groups. In one group, ask the students to work as a team to construct a word finder puzzle. Ask each student to suggest an appropriate word about senses using words they have learned from the book. (e.g. receptor, brain, tongue etc). Once completed, print copies for the other group to complete.
* In the second group, students should work as a team to create a trivia bingo game. Ask each student to suggest a fact they found surprising or interesting. Combine these facts into a game for the whole class.

Find out more

* If it is available ask the students to read *Human Body CloseUp* (Wild Dog Books).

Marketing and promotion

*Senses CloseUp* is part of the *CloseUp* series, which includes *Snakes CloseUp, Mini-Beasts CloseUp, Crocs CloseUp, Spiders CloseUp, Wolves CloseUp, Human Body CloseUp, Elephants CloseUp* and *Sharks CloseUp*. The most recent additions to the series are *Carbon CloseUp* and *Endangered CloseUp.* Future titles in the series are planned.