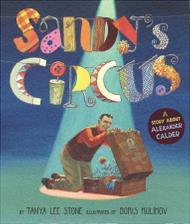


- ❑ Week 6: September 17-21
- ❑ Week 7: September 24-28
- ❑ Week 8: October 1-5 | Explorations Presents 10/1 & 10/2 | Fall Extension Week 10/8-10/12

Sandy's Circus by Tanya Lee Stone	
	<p>Summary: Using ordinary objects, a playful artist creates a whimsical circus and colorful mobiles that spread joy all over the world.</p> <p>Heart of the Book Theme: You can discover and create a new world through play. Just ask Sandy!</p>
Language Arts Reading Comprehension	
<p>For this unit study, we will be exploring stories about people who really lived! These types of stories are called biographies. A biography is a real story about a real person who really lived FOR REAL. A biography is written by an author who finds out a lot about that person. A biography will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Information based on research and facts ● Details, details, details ● Stories about things that really happened ● Personal information about the life and times of the person <p>These language arts resources can be used with various biographies across grade levels. Select activities that will appeal to your student's learning style:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Collect biography facts ● Record biography notes ● Create a biography poster ● Design a biography comic strip ● Design a bio cube using photos or writing facts <p>At home, you can use literature resources (1) (2) to help analyze stories and guide your student's own writing. Continue to review and use read-aloud strategies (1) (2) (3). Explorations books also provide wonderful reading practice. When you read aloud to your child, occasionally pause and ask your student to read the next word, sentence, paragraph, or page. If there is dialog, read one character, while your student reads another character's lines. Keep busy bodies engaged by acting out scenes and making sound effects from the story.</p>	
<p>Assignment #12 Review the information shared in the blue box above. Select read-aloud strategies to use with your student. Read <i>Sandy's Circus</i> to your child. Afterwards, ask your student to tell you his/her favorite thing about Alexander Calder. Listen and follow-up by saying, "That's fascinating! Can you show me that part in the book?" Find and discuss.</p>	
<p>Assignment #13 Alexander Calder, a.k.a. Sandy, created movable art described as having "the force of the ocean," "always in motion," and "full of joy and fun!" As you read together, point out descriptions in</p>	

	<p>the book’s text and illustrations. Ask, “What are some of the crazy materials Sandy used to make his art? Describe the things he created. What kind of personalities do you see in Sandy’s circus figures? How does Sandy’s art make people feel?” Then, watch Alexander Calder perform his circus!</p>
	<p>Assignment #14 Select a story summarizing resource to use with your student:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Five Finger Retelling (pdf) 2. Reading Comprehension Bookmarks 3. Summarize the Story printable – Download from Explorations Printables folder
	<p>Assignment #15 Use the author’s reading guide (pdf) for comprehension questions. Then, select a story activity to complete with your student.</p>
	<p>Assignment #16 Review the information about biographies shared in the blue box above. Download the Explorations Three Bio Details printable to help your student record facts about Sandy Calder. Have your student draw and/or write three details about Sandy. You can also use this printable for other biography projects.</p>
	<p>Assignment #17 Select a biography activity from the blue box above to work on with your student. Learn more about Alexander Calder or select another artist to research.</p>
	<p>Assignment #18 For a journal prompt, select a question from this list. Encourage your child to draw, narrate, or write his/her response.</p>
<p>Language Arts Writing Composition Grammar</p>	
	<p>In class and at home, we are working through a five-step writing process – prewrite, draft, revise, edit, and publish. Use these charts to introduce and explain the writing process to your student.</p> <p>This quarter, we have been focusing on narrative writing. <i>Narrative writing tells a story about real or imaginary events.</i> For the biography unit, we are adding lots of details and interesting facts to our writing assignments. If it is helpful, select story element printables (1) (2) to guide your student’s writing. When working with your student, also keep these resources close at hand – parts of speech printable and figurative language worksheet.</p> <p>For writing projects, use narration techniques to assist your child. Allow your student to answer questions or tell his/her story verbally. Write down exactly what your child says. Then, have your child copy down in his/her best handwriting. This method will help your student become a better storyteller by teaching him/her to summarize. Your first grader will not get as bogged down with spelling or overwhelmed by writing when using this technique. Follow the writing process, but make it verbal. Plus, your child will be able to read his/her own story because it is his/her own words!</p>
	<p>Assignment #11 Verbal storytelling Play Circus Time Fun board game. Invent different ways to play. One idea is to use the game to tell a collaborative family story. Start, “Once upon a time at the _____ Family Circus...” With each move, a player adds to the story. The last player through the board game wins and gets to finish the story. It might be fun to record your stories!</p>
	<p>Assignment #12 Complete the narrative writing sent home in your student’s Explorations folder on week 6. Your student is to add details about his/her favorite part of the circus. For example, “Why is this your favorite part? What do you enjoy most about it?” Don’t forget to illustrate! Students are invited to share their narratives in class. <i>Due week 7 (9/24 & 9/25)</i></p>
	<p>Assignment #13 Create a Circus Act! Give your student the opportunity to create a circus act and write a “ringmaster” introduction! Create a three-ring circus by getting other family members in on the action!</p>
	<p>Assignment #14 On week 7, we will create popcorn adjectives in class! Check your student’s Explorations folder for a bucket of adjectives. Remind your student that adjectives are describing words. Adjectives describe how something looks, sounds, smells, tastes, or feels. Adjectives make stories more</p>

	interesting. If your child does not know what a circus is like, find a circus video to watch online. Then, practice five sense writing with your student. Pretend you're at the circus. Ask your student to use lots of adjectives to describe what he/she sees, hears, smells, tastes, and feels.
	Assignment #15 Have a blast writing a funny narrative based on old-time circus photos .
	Language Arts Vocabulary Grammar
	Assignment #7 On week 6, review the following vocabulary words: <i>adieu</i> , <i>voila</i> , and <i>encore</i> . On week 7, review <i>awestruck</i> , <i>portrait</i> , and <i>gramophone</i> . Find these words in <i>Sandy's Circus</i> and discuss what they mean in the story's context.
	Assignment #8 Use circus-themed word searches to build vocabulary skills.
	Assignment #9 Play Circus Bingo , while enjoying a snack. Better yet, use popcorn or small candies as game pieces! Then, the game becomes the snack!
	Assignment #10 Alexander Calder spent a lot of time in Paris. Learn some French words and phrases! These songs (1) (2) make it fun and easy!
	Science
	Alexander Calder is considered to be the creator of the mobile. Calder created masterpieces that were works of science as much as they were art! In class, we will be making Calder-inspired sculptures and mobiles. At home, you can explore the engineering and science behind Calder's masterpieces.
	Assignment #14 Dad, try this fun engineering activity with your student. For MUCH more technical directions, click here .
	Assignment #15 Play around with balancing points and create a Calder-inspired mobile together. Be inspired by these designs (1) (2) (3) , which provide ideas, resources, and tips. Select one to make.
	Assignment #16 Learn more about the science of the circus. Download the museum guide (pdf), then scroll to page 4. Share information with your child. Watch circus science in action here . Then, try one idea under "What can you do?"
	Assignment #17 On week 6, we'll build an Eiffel Tower out of plastic straws in class. Then, Mrs. Scruby will challenge her first grade students to figure out other ways to build an Eiffel Tower at home – popsicle sticks, pretzels, playing cards! For inspiration, check out this "delicious" idea – jellybean structures . Then, get to building! Since your Eiffel Tower probably won't last as long as the one in Paris, take a photo of your student and his/her creation. Share the photo in class and/or email it to Ruth Brown for the Explorations newsletter. Due week 7 (9/25 & 9/26)
	Assignment #18 On week 6, we'll build an Eiffel Tower in class. Ask your student to recall that experience. What did he/she like about the activity? What was difficult? What did he/she learn? Then, encourage STEM learning by challenging your student to build a different type of structure using unconventional materials. Use these project ideas to help get the creative juices flowing – engineering a bridge and building with paper rolls and straws . Take a photo of your student and his/her creation. Share the photo in class and/or email it to Ruth Brown for the Explorations newsletter. Due week 7 (9/24 & 9/25)
	Assignment #19 Build better balance with fun whole-body activities . Select several activities to try several times with your child.
	Assignment #20 On week 7, we'll be learning about balance and using a mobile balance to try to equally distribute the weight of various objects. At home, you can recreate this great learning activity. Create your own clothes hanger balance, as shown here or here . Gather various objects, such as different toys, dry pasta, dry beans, candy, whatever you can think of. Review the scientific method .

	Then, ask your child to hypothesize about which item weighs more than another. Use the clothes hanger balance to test guesses!
	Assignment #21 Help your child learn more about balancing items by having him/her compare weights using this free (and fun) Sort by Weight activity. Also good for fine motor skill practice!
	Assignment #22 Ask, “Do you weigh more than, less than, or the same as a paper clip?” After laughing together, use this Let’s Compare Weights activity to help your child compare and contrast various items.
	Assignment #23 Bible Connection Our Bible verse reminds us that Jesus is the Light of the world. A new exhibit at the Orlando Science Center showcases the amazing abilities of light. Visit OSC and explore “ Playing with Light ,” which runs from September 23-January 3. Celebrate the Creator and his awesome creation!
	Social Studies
	Assignment #15 Geography On a world globe and map of the USA, find all the places Sandy lived or worked according to the book.
	Assignment #16 Learn more about the history of the circus. Download the museum guide (pdf). Review, then share information with your child. Use the background information, circus artwork, and discussion questions to learn together. Here’s a fun cut-and-paste version of one of the art masterpieces.
	Assignment #17 & 18 Explore Paris city life in the 1920s, the time when Sandy lived and performed there. Watch these vintage videos from the era (1) (2) (3). <i>Preview first.</i> Then, give your child this paper Paris to cut out and play with. Learn a little more about the famous monuments. Add this paper circus (and circus rider). Then, print out this paper city . Encourage your child to use the paper toys to tell the story of <i>Sandy’s Circus</i> . Pretend to travel between Paris and New York City, setting up the circus for a new show. Better yet, make up new stories and adventures. Make two little “suitcases” to pack everything up in!
	Assignment #19 At first, Sandy’s circus filled two suitcases, then five! Plan a pretend trip with your student! Use this suitcase craft to get ready to travel, includes pretend passport and various types of tickets. Combine with geography assignments.
	Assignment #20 Take a day trip to the Ringling Museum in Sarasota. There are amazing circus exhibits and family resources, such as this .
	Bible
	<p>This year we are using materials from Seeds Family Worship to help us hide God’s Word in our hearts. Seeds Family Worship creates modern, relevant, word-for-word scripture songs for families. We will be memorizing verses from Seeds of Faith Vol. 2. This album will help your family grow in understanding as you memorize key principles of the Gospel, including verses about our sinful nature, grace, salvation, redemption, new life, and eternal life. You can purchase the CD, download the songs, or listen for free online.</p> <p>Along the way, we’ll also explore God’s Story of creation, fall, redemption, and the Glory yet to come. In class and at home, we’ll look for glimpses of God’s eternal story in the books we read together, because, as our memory verse reminds us, the word of the Lord stands forever!</p> <p>For Weeks 6-8 John 8:12 – <i>“I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”</i></p>
	Assignment #12 As we study Bible verses and stories, it is important to remember that God’s Word is one big story in which everything points to Jesus. Share “ The Big Story ” of the Bible with your child.

	Assignment #13 Memorize John 8:12 as a family. Play the song. Sing and dance!
	Assignment #14 Use John 8:12 for reading and handwriting practice. Print memory cards (pdf). Or, enjoy the visual memory cards found here .
	Assignment #15 Read John 8:12 in the Bible. Consider reading the surrounding story. Then, discuss the meaning of the verses. Ask, "What do this Bible verse say? What does it mean? What do we learn about Jesus from this verse?"
	Assignment #16 Select a "light" craft to create with your child, such as the mason jar night light , paper lantern , or stained glass cross . As you craft together, sing the Bible verse song and talk about how to follow Jesus, the Light of the world!
	Art
	From a young age, Alexander Calder enjoyed crafting artful play things from scraps of materials he found all around. Your child probably will too! Select Calder-inspired art activities that interest your child. Use these art questions to discuss your student's work. This will help him/her develop verbal communication and critical thinking skills! Bring completed art projects to share in class on week 7 (9/24 & 9/25) or week 8 (10/1 & 10/2).
	Assignment #6 Make a Calder-inspired mini-circus .
	Assignment #7 Create wire portraits , just like Sandy did in Paris!
	Assignment #8 Make a desktop sculpture .
	Assignment #9 Build a mobile like this one . Or, select mobile designs from science assignment #15.
	Assignment #10 Enjoy online museum exhibits of Calder's works at Tate Modern and Whitney Museum of American Art , where the circus now lives. <i>Preview videos and art sites before sharing with your child.</i>
	Coming Up Bring to Class
	On week 9 (10/15 & 10/16) After Fall Extension, please have your student bring any type of apple to class for a fun project!
	Coming Up Explorations Presents Oct. 1 & 2 @ 1:15 p.m.
	Our first Explorations Presents will be held Monday, October 1 at our Oviedo campus and Tuesday, October 2 at our Winter Park campus. Our presentation will start promptly at 1:15 p.m. School dismissal will be at 1:50 p.m. for Park Day. There will be no extracurricular classes on October 1 & . Watch the Explorations newsletter for more details coming soon!