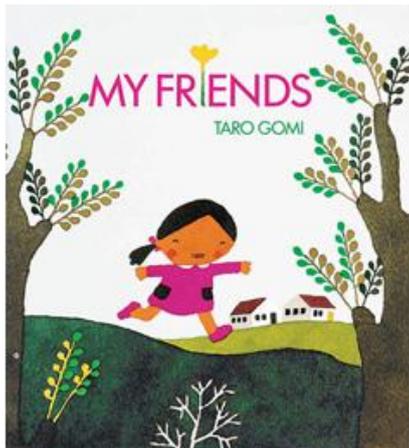


Supote Sikanta, Thailand



'My Friends' by Taro Gomi

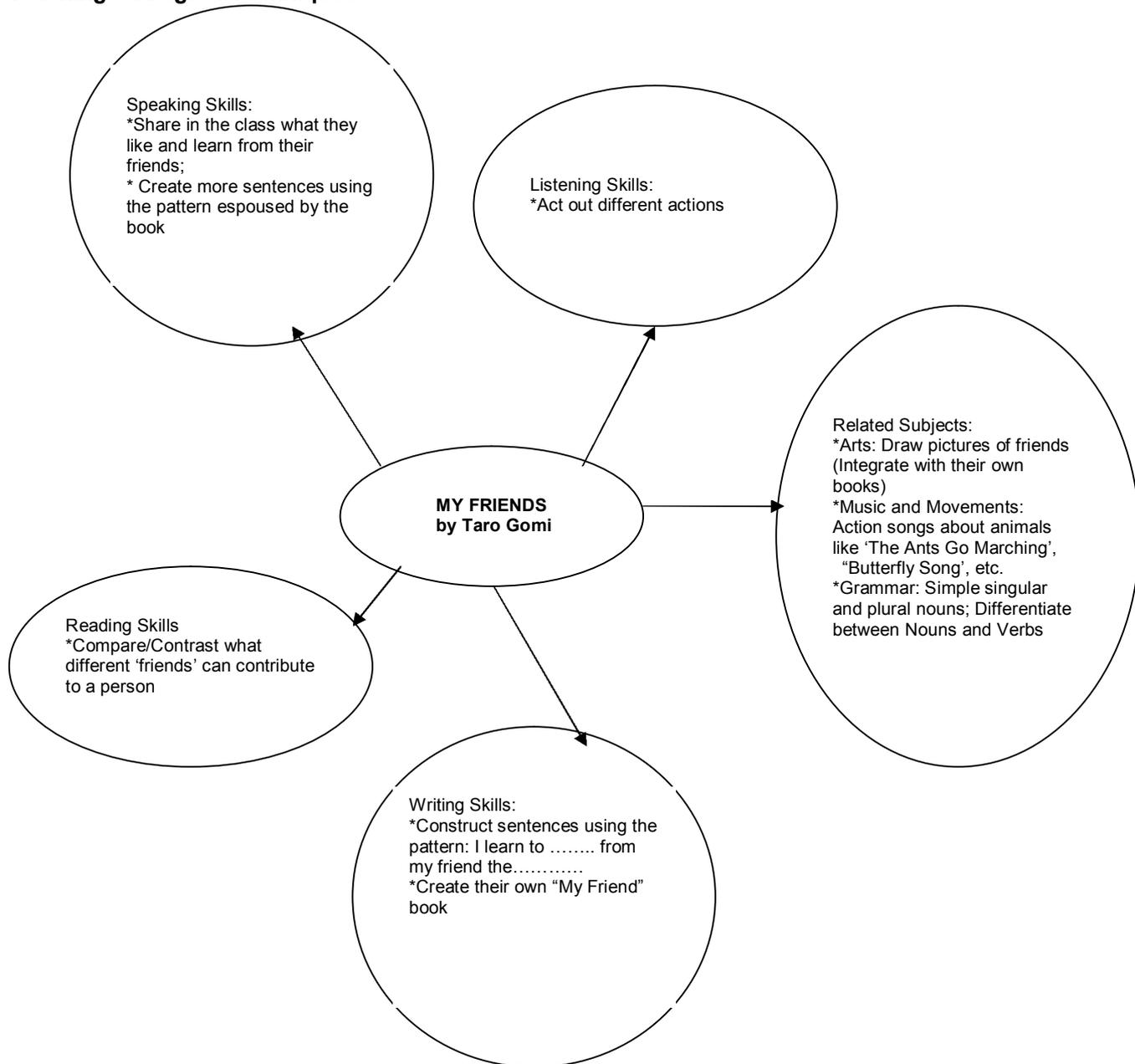
Profile of students to use the text with: First grade English language students

Themes: In the simple world of six and seven-year-olds, a friend may just be anybody who plays with them. In this book, however, friends are presented as someone (or something) who influence and encourage learning. It will be enlightening to know (as adults) what other concepts these children have about friendship and this book is but one way of stimulating and developing a schema for a concept as abstract as relationships.

Main reasons for selection: It is a book that can be easily read and enjoyed by our first grade students who are studying English as a foreign language. These young learners are apt to pay attention to lessons that concern them (like themselves and their friends), and as foreign-language learners of English, repetition (in the text) can aid in their reading, comprehension, and understanding of sentence patterns.

Role of illustrations in the book: The illustration aids in comprehending and amplifying the text; the colours used in the drawings, as well as the images (children, animals, nature), can easily capture the attention of young children.

Teaching strategies/ Techniques



*Ocampo, Diana Joana. (1997). **Trends in Reading Instruction**. Quezon City: University of the Philippines-Open University

Integrated Lesson Sequence:

- **Objectives:**

A. Realise that:

1. friends influence our learning;
2. friends can come in different forms (people, things, animals, etc.)

B. Form a semantic map for 'friends':

Say and act-out what one can learn from a friend.

C. Understand singular/ plural form of nouns (adding -s);

Differentiate between Nouns and Verbs.

- **Materials:** illustrations of vocabulary words/concepts to be discussed; writing exercises (for skills development)

- **Predicting:**

Music and Movements- Sing action songs about animals/ animal movements (like 'The Ants Go Marching', 'The Butterfly Song', etc.)

- **Developing concepts/vocabulary:**

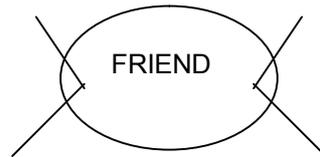
Concepts can be best understood through illustrations (drawings), acting out (especially because most of the words used in the text are verbs), and discussion/ translation (from Thai to English)

Vocabulary Words: friend, learn/ed, walk, jump, climb, run, march, nap, smell, hide, explore, kick, watch, sing, read, study, play, love

- **Developing a purpose for reading:**

Show the cover of the book and read the title

Make a semantic map as to what the students think when they hear/read the word 'Friend'



Based on the semantic map, make a story-related concept that can be the basis for the Motive Question: Based on the story, how do the girl's friends help her or contribute to her life?

- **Reading (Read-Aloud by the Teacher)**

- **Post Reading**

1. Engagement Activities I (Discussion-Whole Class)

*Discuss the students' answers on the Motive Question: Based on the story, how do the girl's friends helped her/contributed to her life?

*Discuss how 'friends' appear in different forms (as animals, people, toys or other things).

2. Engagement Activities II (Small Group)

Divide the class into five groups and assign each group three action words which they will act out. They will also think of other 'friends' that can teach them the same action.

Example: I learned to walk from my friend the cat.

I learned to walk from my friend the robot.

Allow several minutes (10 minutes or less) for the students to think about the task and to practice their actions.

3. Enrichment Activities (Individual Work)

a. Create their own "My Friends" book, by drawing their own friends and constructing their own text using the sentence pattern: I learned tofrom my friend (the).....

4. Skills Development

a. Singular and Plural Nouns

i) Based on the text: I learned to kick from my friend, the gorilla.

I learned to sing from my friends, the birds.

ii) Other Nouns familiar to the students:

Crayon.....crayons

Pencil.....pencils

Flower....flowers

iii) Provide written exercises.

b. Nouns and Verbs

i) Based on the text: I learned to walk from my friend the cat.

I learned to jump from my friend the dog.

ii) Discuss the difference between nouns and verbs.

iii) Provide written exercises.