THE NEW JERSEY
ITALIAN AND ITALIAN AMERICAN HERITAGE COMMISSION

Italian Heritage Curriculum: "The Universality of Italian Heritage"

Unit Two: Second & Third Grades
Lesson Plan #5

"Stories of Pinocchio: Original and Contemporary"

Grades 2-3

Language Arts/Character Education/Art/World Languages

Objectives:

Students will be able to:

1. Identify the country of Italy.
2. Explain the history of the original story of Pinocchio and author, Carlo Collodi.
3. Compare the original story and the Disney story.
4. Identify the genre of the story as a Fairy Tale.

Materials:

- Access to the internet
- Access to a library
- Copy of Carlo Collodi's Adventures of Pinocchio
- Copy of Disney's Pinocchio
- Globe or world map
- White construction paper
- Crayons or markers
- Poster Board and Chalk Board
- Pinocchio movies (either version)

Background:

The Italian story of Pinocchio, developed as a children's novel by Italian author Carlo Collodi, was completed as a book in 1883. Entitled *The Adventures of Pinocchio* (*Le Avventure di Pinocchio*), this classic work tells the story of the exciting adventures of a wooden puppet and his father, named Geppetto, a woodcarver. The story has many character-building lessons, such as the importance of honesty, and has become a favorite children's story. Disney adapted the story to an animated film version, with which most children in the United States are familiar. However, the stories do differ in a number of respects, similar to the way in which the original Grimm's Fairy tales differ from their modern counterparts.

This lesson plan is about the story of Pinocchio and the importance of truth and character development. Students will focus on the significance of telling the truth and the value of accepting responsibilities. They will also discuss the history of the original story written by Carlo Collodi, and they will learn about his background. Students will have the Disney version of the story read to them aloud in class. They will discuss some of the differences and similarities between the original story and the Disney version.

"Pinocchio" means "little pine" or "pine nut" in the Italian language. The genre of the story is considered to be a fairy tale. For purposes of classroom discussion, the principal characteristics of fairy tales are:

- Typically begin with the concept of "Once upon a time" and end with "Happily ever after"
- Contain magic
- Usually have lessons or morals
- Usually have princes or princesses involved in the story

For more detailed information regarding preparation for this lesson plan, please use the following websites:

History of the original Pinocchio story at:
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pinocchio

Background information on Carlo Collodi at:
http://www.kirjasto.sci.fi/collodi.htm

Procedures:

   I.   Discuss with the students the background on Carlo Collodi, the original author of the story <u>Pinocchio</u>.

   II.   Identify on a world map or globe the country of Italy, the city of Collodi, and the city of Florence.

   III.   Have the students recall the story of Pinocchio as they know it.

   IV.   Read aloud to the class the original story of Pinocchio by Carlo Collodi, or download and reproduce the story for the students to follow along or help in reading.

   V.   Create a story map or story web for each version of the story.
- a. The charts should identify story title, characters, setting, problem, attempts to solve the problem, and the solution.
- b. You may want to make these charts ahead of time.
    - i. Have the class help you to fill in the categories.

   VI.   Using the two story maps or webs, create and have the class help to fill in a Venn Diagram to compare and contrast the two versions of the story.
- a. A Venn Diagram is a chart with two large interlocking circles that creates three spaces.

   VII.   Label the left space "Carlo Collodi", the middle space "Similarities", and the right space "Walt Disney".

   VIII. Begin in the middle space.
- a. Here you should record events in both versions that are the same.

   IX.   On the left you should record events or characters that are only found in the original version by Carlo Collodi.

   X.   On the right you should record only events or characters that are found in the version by Walt Disney.
- a. Discuss your findings.

   XI.   Discuss with the class the genre of the story.
- a. What makes this story a fairy tale?

   XII.   Using construction paper, have each student cut out four large circles.
- a. You may want to make round patterns for them to trace.
    - i. Each circle is to become a face using crayons or markers.
    - ii. Have the students make one face happy, sad, angry, and afraid.
        1. On the back of each face have the students write a sentence telling an event when Pinocchio displayed each of these emotions in the story.

Assessment:

Teachers will check for students' understanding as they proceed through the lesson plan.

Teachers will evaluate students' work based on a teacher-made checklist.

Extension:

- Read the Disney version of the story Pinocchio.
- Show the movie of either version.
- Create your own fairy tale using the genre's characteristics:
  - This can be done as a class or individually.
- Make puppets using a variety of materials, old socks, brown lunch bags, paper plates, popsicle sticks, etc.
- Research how to create a marionette and do it as a class or group project.