Teaching with *The Wolf’s Chicken Stew* by Keiko Kaza

**BOOK SYNOPSIS**

Short and sweet but says so much! This early childhood picture book authored and illustrated by Keiko Kasza puts a spin on “a good idea.” The brilliant facial expressions on the wolf and the hen tell the story. The scheming wolf and the unflappable hen take the reader through a journey to an unlikely friendship. The surprise ending and the character building make this a must for every child’s library.

**LITERATURE**

→ **Using Felt-board Finger Puppets While Reading *The Wolf’s Chicken Stew***. You will need one white hen (Mrs. Chicken), one brown wolf and at least 5 chick finger puppets (so you can use them with other popular counting rhymes). Introduce them as indicated in the book. Keep the wolf on your finger and put the hen up on the felt-board (facing away from the wolf when he first spots her in the distance). In this way, you can read the book and handle the finger puppets simultaneously. *Remember to put the finger puppet on the index finger of the hand you use to turn the pages. Learn to turn the pages using your thumb and middle finger.* When the wolf returns to the house on the last night and peeks through the keyhole, put him on the felt-board behind Mrs. Chicken, and as the book reads, when she answers the door, turn her towards him. Now bring all the chicks into the scene and when they jump all over him and give him 100 kisses, cover him with all the chicks as the kids delight in seeing him disappear under all the kisses!

→ **Prompts**. During the read, give prompts about objects or activities in the pictures. This will raise the level of comprehension. Use your finger to point to what you are asking about. Examples: 1. What is happening on the first page? (The wolf is eating dinner.) 2. What did the wolf eat? (He ate fish.) 3. What else do you see on the table? (There are plates, bowls, a cup and saucer, and a glass with a straw.) 4. Who is the wolf following? (He is following Mrs. Chicken.) 5. What is Mrs. Chicken wearing on her head? (She is wearing a scarf.)

**MATH**

→ **Celebrating the number 100**. This book is a perfect read for the 100th day of school! Write the word and the number on the blackboard. Read the book and have the children point out each time 100 is referenced. 1. A hundred pancakes 2. A hundred donuts 3. A hundred pound cake 4. A hundred kisses 5. A hundred cookies. What a perfect time to study the number 100. Have fun with it!

→ **Introducing the pound**. A pound is an important measure of weight. Use a postage scale and weigh different objects. Use a bathroom scale and let those who want to weigh themselves, do so. Compare weights of objects. Discuss that 100 pound cake! Bring in a cake and weigh it. Then guesstimate how big the 100 pound cake would be.

→ **Extension activity**. Actually make 100 pancakes and count forward as you do putting them in piles of ten. Then count backwards as they are served to be eaten with scrumptious toppings like honey, peanut butter and jelly.

**LANGUAGE**

→ **Vocabulary**. *Chicken stew* - a warm thick soup with chicken. Discuss the title of the book.

   *Prey* - an animal hunted or seized for food

   *Scrumptious* - delicious, yummy, tasty. Have everyone use the word with their favorite food.

**SCIENCE**

→ **Study of chickens**. Chickens include all the family members of this domestic farm bird. *Hen* is the female. *Rooster* is the male. *Chick* is the baby. All are chickens. Using your finger puppets and the drawings in the book, you can point out the particular body parts, the comb, the waddle, the beak, the wings, the feathers and then, of course, you might want to discuss the egg.

→ **Study of the wolf**. Wild “dog like” animal. Lives in packs, groups. Is a meat eater.

**LIFE LESSONS**

→ **Doing the right thing**. Who did the right thing in the book? Why is it better to chose right over wrong?

→ **Not getting what one wants and being okay with it**. Who didn’t get what he wanted. What did he get instead? Life “serves up” surprises and change, embrace them even though it isn’t what you expected!

→ **Things are not always what they seem**. What wasn’t what it seemed? To whom and why?

→ **Helping each other and becoming friends**. Who became unlikely friends? How did that happen? Why are they considered unlikely friends?