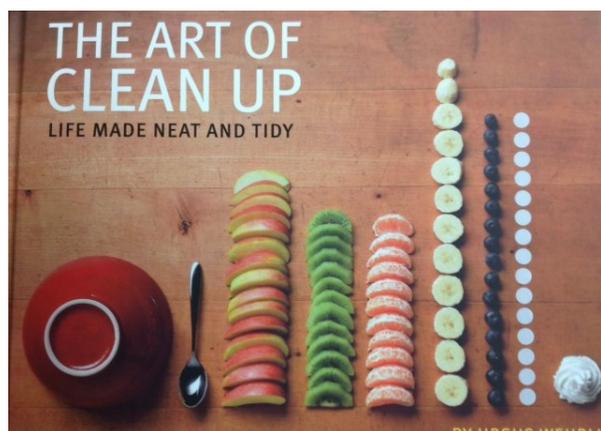


Writing Trait: Ideas

Learning Intention: Lure children into the world of books with fun, playful activities such as this one. We want children to discover the joy of reading and what better way than with the playful and creative use of materials.

Carol Walters ~ S.D. #71



By Ursus Wehrli

Before Reading

Share the title of this book with students. Have them look carefully at the picture on the front cover. Ask them what they are noticing (e.g. There's a red bowl and it's upside down. The fruit are all lined up in rows etc ...)

Encourage students to ask questions they have about this cover arrangement.

Ask students to predict why this book is called The Art of Clean Up. Have them share clean up stories with each other in partners, then whole class.

During Reading

Several years ago I watched Faye Brownlie do a demonstration lesson in which she encouraged children to ask questions while flipping through the pages of a book. Its simplicity was brilliant and the responses from students were as creative as they were formative. This book begs for this strategy to be repeated.

Each time you turn the page, have students ask questions and share what they are noticing. A favourite quote by James Britton states that, "Reading and writing float on a sea of talk." This lesson is based on that premise.

After Reading

After reading, viewing and discussing this book, encourage students to find objects, both inside the room and outdoors that lend themselves to a "clean up!" Take photos of their work and document their comments and insights.

Cross curricular possibilities:

Prompt students to make mathematical arrangements with the objects they "clean up". Challenge students to make groups of ten ... or five ... or two etc... to reinforce sorting, patterning, graphing, skip counting, repeated addition, multiplication and division.

Objects may also be partitioned and of course subitized!