

# B.J.'s Journey

Grades: 2-8

B.J. was always getting a drink of water from the drinking **faucet** in the back of the classroom. She would open the **cabinet** beneath the sink, stand on the shelf, lean over and drink a long cool drink. Her teacher, Ms. Lynn, would call out, "B.J., one day you are going to get sucked right down that drain." But B.J. would only laugh and go on drinking.

One day it happened. B.J. was getting a drink at the faucet. Ms. Lynn said, "B.J., one day you are going to get sucked right down that drain." Suddenly, there was a great sucking noise as B.J.'s head, neck, and shoulders disappeared down the drain. Her toes were last seen kicking wildly in the air before she vanished from sight.

Down, down, through a **long round pipe** she was carried along with all the water for a great distance. Then she was dumped out onto a **sandy desert**. She was surrounded by a great **cactus forest**. The sun was high and fierce in the sky. She wandered among the **cacti**. A **lizard** and **snake** played in the sun, but she was not amused. Thirst overcame her; she longed for the faucet back at school. In the distance, she was sure she saw the sink from her classroom with the cabinet underneath. She ran towards it.

And found a **well** with a pointed thatched roof, a crank handle, and a large bucket hanging down from a rope right in the middle of an oasis. She ran to the well and turned the handle lowering the bucket down, down, down. She waited for the splashing sound, but it never came. She leaned **way over** to see what was happening, and she fell head first down, down, down into the well. She fell through a great hole in the middle of the **world**. Right through the center of the **earth** she tumbled.

When she came to the other side she found herself lying on **cold white drifts of ice**. She had landed in the North pole. All around were drifts of snow and **tall icy glaciers**. She had no coat and began to shiver. She needed to find shelter soon. She carefully picked her way over the ice and around the snow drifts. She built herself an **igloo** by carefully cutting blocks of ice. She finished just in time to keep from freezing. She crawled inside the igloo and built a fire. The warm blaze started to melt the snow. She didn't know what to do. Then, without warning, the ice began to move. The igloo melted faster and the air seemed to be getting warmer. B.J. hung on as she watched her igloo melt away.

## INTEGRATION

Animals, Cause & Effect, Details, Fact & Fiction, Fantasy, Habitats, Humor, Living Things, Plot Sequence, Repetition, Story Elements, Travel, Visual Art

## CONCEPTS/SKILLS

Collaboration, Teamwork, Narrator/Storytelling, Repetition, Shape/Line/Level: Aesthetics

## TEACHER'S NOTES

*This story was originally created as an organizer for an integrated project combining a social studies unit on animal habitats, a visual art unit on warm and cool colors, and a drama unit on transformation and team work. Since its origination, it has been used effectively with high school and adult classes. All ages seem to like this story!*

*The playing of this story allows the students to work in teams creating body objects that are needed for the background or setting. See BODY OBJECTS Lesson.*



When the snow had melted almost all the way, B.J. noticed she was not on an iceberg but on the back of a whale. Why, she was riding on a **humpback whale** who was heading to the warm waters of the Caribbean. She held on as tight as she could for the long wild ride. It looked like she and the whale would arrive safely until the whale got himself stuck on a sandy beach.

She climbed down off the poor creature's back and wondered how she could help. She spotted a **row boat** washed up on the beach and thought the owner might not mind if she borrowed it for a while. She was lucky to find a good sturdy rope in the boat. She whipped a lasso around a nice strong part of the whale, so as not to hurt it. And she secured the other end of the rope to her boat. She began to row out to sea.

She pulled and she pulled and she pulled. The whale began to budge and soon was splashing excitedly in the water. In fact, it got so excited it didn't watch its tail and it flipped B.J., boat and all, high, high into the air. Down, down, down, the boat tumbled and smashed into a thousand pieces. Then down, down, down B.J. tumbled until she hit the ground with a soft thud and was knocked right out.

When B.J. woke up, it was night in a **deep dark forest**. It was cool and damp. A hoot owl made noises to the **moon** that hung low over the trees. A wolf howled, a squirrel scampered, and B.J. was frightened. She needed a place to hide from the noises. She didn't see the **mountain** in front of her. Bam, she hit it with her nose and fell down. She stretched out her arms and felt around the tall mountain until she found what she was looking for, a nice safe **cave** in which to wait for morning.

She felt safe in the cave. Water dripped from somewhere. There were **rocks** hanging from the ceiling and rocks growing up in tall points from the floor (**stalactites** and **stalagmites**). She moved to the back of the cave to get away from the animals outside. And there she spied the oddest thing. A small door with a handle. She was sure if she got down and crawled she could make her way through that door.

The door opened on the first try. A bright white light came through inviting B.J. to the other side. B.J. crawled through the door. As her head poked out into the light, she heard a familiar voice. "B.J. are you getting another drink of water? One day you're going to get sucked right down that drain."

B.J. jumped up and brushed herself off. She noticed the 24 pair of eyes that had turned to look at her at the **sink**.

"I know, Ms. Lynn," gulped B.J. as she closed the cabinet door and turned off the faucet in the sink. "I know. I know."

## TEACHER'S NOTES

*Where you see the bold words, pause to let the students create the objects with their bodies.*

*You might not have enough time to do the entire story, depending on what objective you have chosen as the focus of your lesson. I often begin with the drinking fountain in the classroom, the traveling through the water pipe, coming out in the desert, finding the oasis with the well, falling down the well and traveling through the center of the earth, coming out in the South Pole, building a Igloo, discovering a door at the back of the Igloo, crawling through the door to come out under the sink in the classroom.*

*I use this shortened version also without the animals or vegetation when I am teaching something like details, for instance, but use the longer version if I am teaching habitats or eco systems.*

*Use the storytelling tips and remember, if you tell it in your own words, you can add information, delete information, and put in settings or habitats you might be covering with your participants.*



# Supplemental Teaching Strategies, Hints, Tips

The following pages are resources designed to help

*Available to members*

