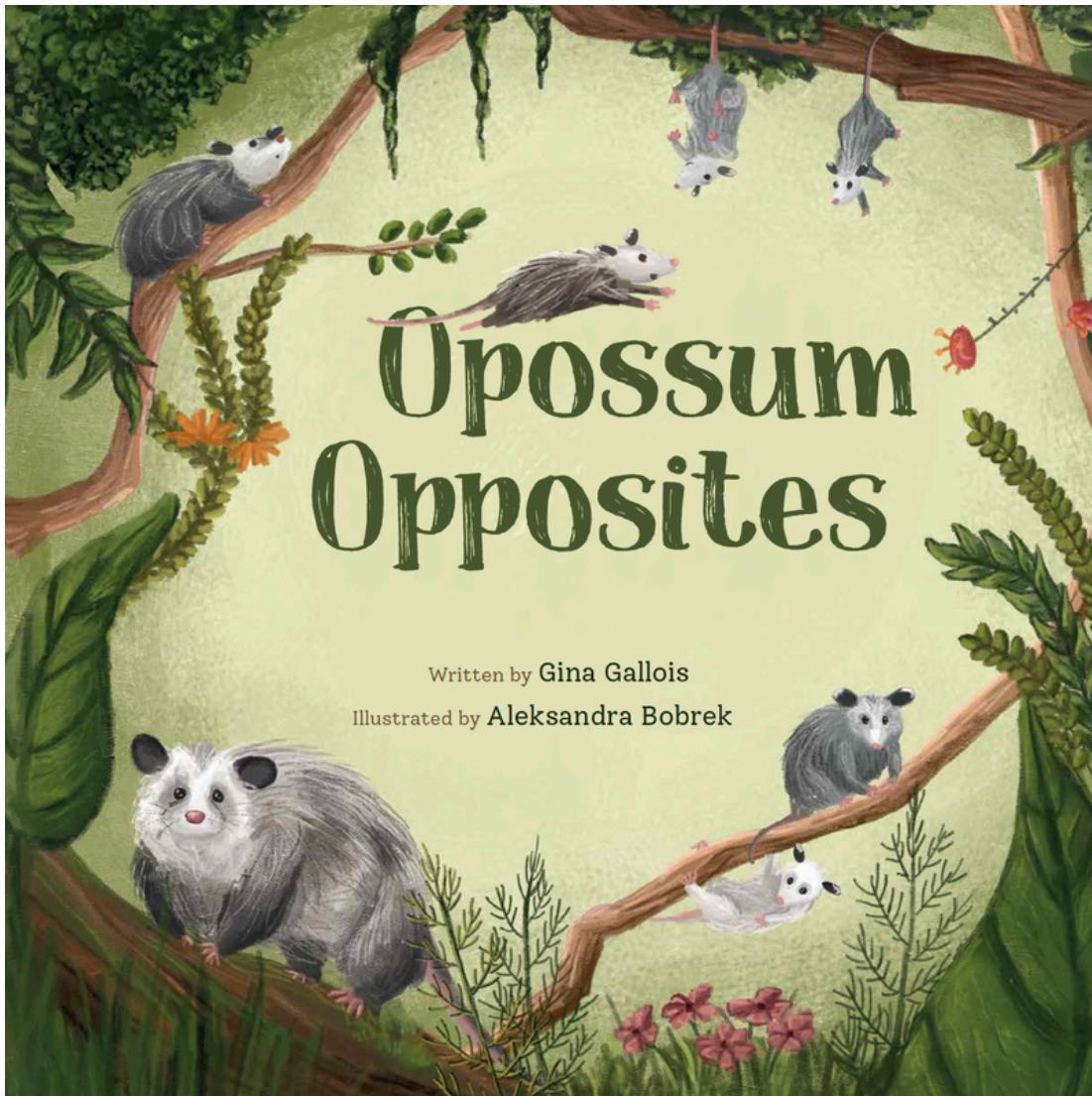


Lesson Plans: K-2

Opossum Opposites



Opossum Opposites K-2 Lesson Guide

Objective:

Students will be able to identify, explain, and use opposite concepts using examples from the book *Opossum Opposites* by Gina Gallois.

Standards Addressed:

Kindergarten:

1. CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.K.1: With prompting and support, ask and answer questions about key details in a text.
2. CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.L.K.5.B: Demonstrate understanding of frequently occurring verbs and adjectives by relating them to their opposites (antonyms).

First Grade:

1. CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.1.4: Identify words and phrases in stories or poems that suggest feelings or appeal to the senses.
2. CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.L.1.5.A: Sort words into categories (e.g., colors, clothing) to gain a sense of the concepts the categories represent.

Second Grade:

1. CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.2.4: Describe how words and phrases (e.g., regular beats, alliteration, rhymes, repeated lines) supply rhythm and meaning in a story, poem, or song.
2. CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.L.2.5.B: Distinguish shades of meaning among closely related verbs (e.g., toss, throw, hurl) and closely related adjectives (e.g., thin, slender, skinny, scrawny).

Key Points:

- Opposites can be used in writing to create contrast and interest.
- Some words have multiple opposites depending on context (e.g. light).

Vocabulary:

- In order of appearance: Pouch, marsupials, development, womb, nurse, delight, unique, prehensile, occasionally, ability, nocturnal, solitary, scraps, omnivores, overripe, carrion, arachnids, doze, slubbing, startled, wounded, unfamiliar, wildlife rehabilitators, habitat
- Words to provide a friendly synonym for while reading (as needed): development, womb, delight, unique, occasionally, ability, solitary, scraps, overripe, doze, startled, wounded, unfamiliar, wildlife rehabilitators, habitat
- Academic vocabulary addressed in book: pouch, marsupials, prehensile, nocturnal, omnivores, carrion, arachnids, slubbing

Sample Reading Activities for *Opossum Opposites*:

Before Reading Activities:

1. Opposites Brainstorm (All Grades):

- Create a class mind map of opposite pairs students already know.
- K: Draw simple pictures next to words.
- 1st: Categorize opposites (e.g., size, temperature).
- 2nd: Add multiple opposites for some words.

2. Opossum Facts (All Grades):

- Share 3-5 interesting facts about opossums (teacher should use the “Did You Know?” callouts from the book for facts).
- K: Show pictures and discuss.
- 1st: Have students repeat facts and act out opossum behaviors.
- 2nd: Students write one fact and draw an opossum.

3. Picture Walk (All Grades):

- Show book cover and a few inside pages without reading.
- K: Identify opposites in pictures.
- 1st: Predict what the story might be about.
- 2nd: Write 2-3 sentences about what they think will happen in the story.

During Reading Activities:

1. Opposite Gestures (All Grades):

- Students make gestures to represent each opposite pair as you read.

2. Turn and Talk:

- Stop at key points and ask students the 'OpossumTalk' prompts. Allow students time to turn and talk to their neighbor before allowing a few pairs.

3. Vocabulary Focus (2nd Grade):

- Identify unfamiliar words and discuss their meanings and opposites.

4. Opposite Hunt (All Grades):

- K: Point to opposites in illustrations.
- 1st: Raise hand when they hear an opposite pair.
- 2nd: Write down opposite pairs they hear.

After Reading Activities:

1. Retell with Opposites (All Grades):

- K: Use picture cards to retell the story, focusing on opposites.
- 1st: Oral retelling using opposite pairs from the story.
- 2nd: Written retelling, underlining opposite pairs used.

2. Opposite Charades (All Grades):

- Act out opposite pairs for classmates to guess.

3. Create New Opossum Opposites (1st and 2nd Grade):

- Brainstorm new opposite pairs not in the book, featuring opossums.

4. Opposite Poem (2nd Grade):

- Write a simple poem using opposite pairs from the story.

5. Reflection (All Grades):

- K: Draw favorite part of the story and label with an opposite pair.

- 1st: Complete sentence stems about the story and opposites.
- 2nd: Write a paragraph about what they learned about opposites and opossums.

Sample Lesson Structure using *Opossum Opposites*:

Lesson Opening:

Greet students and have them sit in a circle on the carpet.

- Show students two contrasting objects (e.g., a big ball and a small ball).
- Ask: "What do you notice about these two balls?" Encourage students to use descriptive words.
- Introduce the concept of opposites and explain that today's lesson will explore more examples using a special animal.

Introduction to New Material:

- Show the cover of "Opossum Opposites" and ask students if they know what an opossum is.
- Briefly explain what opossums are and where they live.
- Introduce the term "opposites" and provide a simple definition.
- Read the first few pages of the book, emphasizing the opposite words.
- Pause to discuss each pair of opposites, asking students to give examples from their own experiences.
- Common misconception to anticipate: Some students might think that all different words are opposites. Clarify that opposites are words with completely opposite meanings, not just different meanings.
- For 1st and 2nd grade, introduce the term "antonym" as another word for opposite.
- For 2nd grade, discuss how some words can have multiple opposites (e.g., light/dark, light/heavy).

Guided Practice:

- Set expectations: "We're going to play a game with opposites. Listen carefully and follow instructions."
- Play "Opposite Simon Says": Give instructions using opposite words (e.g., "Simon says stand up. Simon says sit down.").
- Show pictures from the book and ask students to identify the opposites.
- Create a class list of opposites on the board, asking students to contribute ideas.
- Monitor student understanding by observing their participation and responses.
- 1st Grade: Play "Opposite Categories" - provide a category (e.g., weather) and have students list opposites within that category.

- 2nd Grade: "Opposite Chain Game" - Start with a word, and each student adds a word that's opposite to the previous one, creating a chain.

Independent Practice:

- Kindergarten: Create a simple picture book of 2-5 pages, illustrating opposite pairs learned from the story.
- First Grade: Create a flipbook with 3-6 opposite pairs, including both illustrations and written labels.
- Second Grade: Write and illustrate a short story (1-2 paragraphs) using at least 4 opposite pairs in context.

Closing:

- Kindergarten: Discuss as a class, "What was your favorite opposite pair from the book? Why?"
- 1st Grade: Have students share one opposite pair from their flip books and use both words in a sentence.
- 2nd Grade: Students read their short stories aloud, and classmates identify the opposite pairs used.


Extension Activities:

- Kindergarten: Students who finish early can create an "Opposite Scavenger Hunt" list, writing or drawing 5 pairs of opposites they can find in the classroom
- 1st Grade: Create an "Opposite Day" schedule, describing their day using opposites.
- 2nd Grade: Write riddles using opposites for classmates to solve.

Draw your own opossum!

Don't forget to give your opossum a long pointy nose, small black ears and eyes, a white face, and a long tail.



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This reading activity is brought to you by Moonflower Press
with art from Opossum Opposites, by Gina Gallois



Opposites with Opossums



Draw a line to match the words on the left to their opposite word on the right. Can you fill in the missing word?

play

full

healthy

clean

empty

furry

night

stop

pet

sick

bald

safety

dirty


work

go

day

danger



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Opposites with Opossums

Can you write down three pairs of opposites you read about in Opossum Opposites? Explain how each pair relates to opossums.
BONUS: Can you think of a new pair? Write about it or draw a picture.

1. _____ & _____


2. _____ & _____


3. _____ & _____

NEW: _____ & _____




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Opossum Vocabulary




Choose words below and write your choices on the lines. Then draw a picture or write a few words to explain the meaning of each.

pouch
marsupial
prehensile

nocturnal
omnivore
carrion

arachnid
solitary
habitat



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Here's what I learned reading



Opossum Opposites




Opossums love to eat:



I love to eat:



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Here's what I learned reading Opossum Opposites


These are a few of the things most people
don't know about opossums

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

These are a few of the things most people
don't know about ME

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____



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