



Teacher Feature



MODEL Characters in media can model skills and behaviors for children to practice.

We watched the *Weather Hunters* episode “Dark and Stormy Night” to learn about storms and how to measure their distance. To make my students feel like they were immersed in the experience, I dimmed the lights and lowered the temperature in our classroom. I even sprayed them with mists of water. I was surprised how much they enjoyed the experience and stayed engaged throughout the entire episode. After, it sparked my students' interest in learning more about storms, lightning and staying safe during a storm.



SPARK Media can help spark interest or help generate questions on a topic.

As we watched the episode, we paused and talked about how the weather made them feel. We discussed a time earlier this year when the electricity went out in the entire town because of a storm. For many of us, this was the first time our town didn't have power. We talked about our experiences and how this made us feel. Then they played a game where they laughed and cheered each other on.



CREATE Media and digital tools can be used to support creativity as they express themselves, their ideas, and their knowledge.

After the episode, we continued our discussion by talking about our previous experiences with storms. Many students shared how they were able to relate to Al Hunter because they had mixed emotions during a storm—feeling both brave but scared by the thunder. My students then drew images of how we explore weather using our senses.

The Lesson

A Dark and Stormy Night Viewing Guide

Objective:

Students will learn to describe the differences between thunder and lightning, and how to predict how far away a storm is.

About the Teacher

Name: Alayna Smith

Grade: Kindergarten

Location: Libby, MT

Local PBS Station: Montana PBS

Teacher Bio: I have been teaching for over three years and my favorite part about teaching is watching how much my students grow in nine months. I am a proud mother of two and In my free time, I like to fish and travel.



To learn about six approaches to integrating media in your classroom, [click here.](#)