
MAMA DON'T ALLOW

Author: Thacher Hurd

Publisher: HarperCollins

THEME:

Success is often dependent on the amount of time and effort we invest in pursuing a chosen interest.

PROGRAM SUMMARY:

When Miles gets a saxophone for his birthday, neither his parents nor his neighborhood can stand the racket. However, when Miles and his Swamp Band receive an invitation to play at the Alligator Ball, no one guesses what's in store. Inspired by the book, LeVar takes viewers deep into the swamps of Louisiana to visit an alligator farm, journeys down the Mississippi on a riverboat, learns about creating sounds from mouthsounds performer Fred Newman, and meets one of New Orleans' hottest jazz saxophonists.

TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION:

Before viewing the program, see how many different kinds of music the students can think of. List their ideas on the board. Discuss what each type of music they mention sounds like and whether it is usually played loudly or softly. After they watch the program, ask if they want to add other types of music to their list.

Have the class brainstorm lists of things they are not allowed to do, either at home or at school, either at home or in school. Discuss reasons why these are items are on "don't allow" lists.

Discuss the importance of practice in learning how to play a musical instrument. Extend the discussion to include any skill one might be trying to master (e.g., a sport, dancing, reading, drawing, cooking, etc.)

In the story, no one liked the Swamp Band's music except the alligators. Talk about why the alligators wanted the band to play at their ball.

CURRICULUM EXTENSION ACTIVITIES:

Have students do some research on alligators. In what kind of habitat do they live? What do they eat? To what animal group do they belong? How are their young born? What do they look like? What are their enemies?

Locate the Mississippi River on a map of the United States. Have a group of volunteers find information about the Mississippi, such as how long it is, why it is an important river in history and in the present, etc.

With students working in small groups, use manipulatives to demonstrate the mathematical concept of doubling. Pinto beans or dried peas work well. Provide containers of varying sizes, such as nut cups, margarine tubs or other containers that come in 8-ounce and 16-ounce sizes, plastic quarts, half-gallon, and gallon containers. Designate the number of times to double the items. (For example, doubling beans ten times is 512 beans.) Students will need to estimate the size of container they need to hold the items they are doubling. At some point, they may decide to double the containers rather than individual beans. Read *One Grain of Rice* by Demi (Scholastic) or *The King's Chessboard* by David Birch (Dial) to accompany this activity. "Mama Don't Allow" is an old traditional song. Obtain a recording and sing the song in the classroom. It is also ideal for having students make up additional verses. They might use the list of "don't allows" they generated above.

Invite someone who plays a saxophone into the classroom to demonstrate how to play the instrument and play some tunes for the students.

Enlist the aid of the music teacher in helping the students understand various rhythms. Have them snap, clap, or tap out the rhythms of different types of music.

Have students experiment with making their own mouthsounds. Revisit the segment in the program featuring Fred Newman's mouthsounds. After they have had the opportunity to practice, tape record the sounds they generate so they can listen to their creations.

The characters in the book, *Mama Don't Allow*, speak in word balloons. Obtain a copy of the book and show the students how the word balloons are incorporated into the illustrations. Provide students with strips of construction paper (6 x 18 inches) and have them make a four-frame cartoon strip, featuring the characters from the story.

Have a class talent show. Students who play musical instruments or dance can perform. Others can sing, tell jokes, read poetry, do puppet shows, do magic tricks, and a variety of other talent acts. Have students make posters and invitations advertising the show. Invite parents, school personnel, and other classes to see the show (more than one performance may be necessary). In planning the show, stress that all of us have talent.

With the help of the library media specialist, have students gather some resources that show pictures of swamps. Ask them to pay special attention to the animals and plants that live and grow in a swamp. Have students make a mural of a swamp, using the pictures they found as models. Provide construction paper and other materials, and encourage them to think of ways they might make the mural three-dimensional.

RELATED THEMES:

musical instruments
reptiles
different types of boats

RELATED READING RAINBOW PROGRAMS:

Program #127 — Hip Cat
Program #82 — The Wall
Program #15 — Ty's One Man Band

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

The son of well-known children's book author and illustrator Edith Thacher Hurd and Clement Hurd, Thacher Hurd believes his parents influenced his art by "osmosis" because he was always around while they worked. He began his career doing "classical" types of art, such as still lifes and landscapes, but found more fulfillment in the fanciful drawings that are the basis of his children's books. An intense interest in music motivated *Mama Don't Allow*. Thacher and his wife Olivia are the founders of Peaceable Kingdom Press, a distributor of posters and greeting cards from children's books. Thacher is also the author/illustrator of **Reading Rainbow** feature book, *Mystery on the Docks*.

BOOKS REVIEWED BY CHILDREN:

MIRANDA
by Tricia Tusa (Macmillan)

APT. 3
by Ezra Jack Keats (Macmillan)

ALLIGATOR SHOES
by Arthur Dorros (Unicorn/Dutton)

HIGHLIGHTED BOOK:

MOUTHSOUNDS
by Fred Newman (Workman)

SUPPLEMENTARY BOOKLIST:

ALL ABOUT ALLIGATORS
by Jim Arnosky (Scholastic)

NEVER KISS AN ALLIGATOR!
by Colleen Stanley Bare (Cobblehill/Dutton)

WILLIE JEROME
by Alice Faye Duncan, illus. by Tyrone Geter (Atheneum)

LITTLE LIL AND THE SWING-SINGING SAX

by Libba Moore Gray, illus. by Lisa Cohen (Simon & Schuster)

SPOONBILL SWAMP

by Brenda Z. Guiberson, illus. by Megan Lloyd (Henry Holt)

WHO LIVES IN—ALLIGATOR SWAMP?

by Ron Hirschi, photos by Galen Burrell (Dodd, Mead)

BEN'S TRUMPET

by Rachel Isadora (Greenwillow)

GERTIE AND GUMBO

by Matt Novak (Orchard)

IF I ONLY HAD A HORN: YOUNG LOUIS ARMSTRONG

by Roxane Orgill, illus. by Leonard Jenkins (Houghton Mifflin)

CHARLIE PARKER PLAYED BEBOP

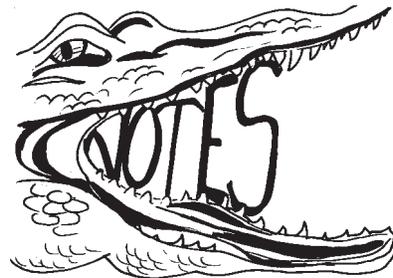
by Chris Raschka (Orchard)

SATCHMO'S BLUES

by Alan Schroeder, illus. by Floyd Cooper (Doubleday)

WILLIE BLOWS A MEAN HORN

by Ianthe Thomas, illus. by Ann Toulman-Rothe (HarperCollins)



"Mama Don't Allow," which with lyrical variations has become a popular standard, was performed by Dudley Moore on piano, with accompaniment from M.A.M.M.A., in The Muppet Show episode 407. The song had previously been performed by the Country Trio on The Dick Cavett Show in 1973. A variation by the Sesame Street cast called "Oscar Don't Allow" was performed on the album, Bert & Ernie Sing-Along. Bukka White - Mama Don't Allow. Listen. Download MP3. Bukka White - Don't Fuzz Blues. Nekromantix - Mama Don't Allow. Mungo Jerry - Mama Don't Allow. Two Timers - Mama Don't Allow. Chris Barber - Mama Don't Allow. Neanders Jazzband - Mama Don't Allow. The Ink Spots - Mama Don't Allow. George Lewis - Mama Don't Allow. Bukka White - Jump. Loading Like this: Mama don't allow: -No drums beatin' -No banjo playing -No Lindy dancing -No trombone blowing -No jazz playing. Etc. Mama Don't Allow. Traditional Song. Mama don't allow no music playin' round here, Mama don't allow no music playin' round here, Well, we don't care what Mama don't allow Gonna play that music anyhow, Mama don't allow no music playin' round here. Share this Rating. Title: Momma Don't Allow (1956). 6,6/10. Want to share IMDb's rating on your own site? By the time the it was completed in November 1955, its title had been changed to Momma Don't Allow. See more ». Connections.