

Point of View Lesson

Photos & Perspectives of the Civil War

The True Story of the Three Little Pigs

by Jon Scieszka

Option 1: Read All About It!

Although *The True Story of the Three Little Pigs!* is funny, it does make the point that two different newspapers might cover the same story differently depending on who their readers are and what those readers believe. For example, A. Wolf's story appears in *The Daily Wolf*. The other news reports (that tells the story of the big bad wolf) appear in *The Daily Pig*. The wolf newspaper and the pig newspaper seem to print stories that make their own kind look good. Ask students to write about the story of the three little pigs as if they had watched nearby when the wolf visited each of the pigs. Their stories can appear in a newspaper called *The Daily Human*. Have students think about how the story would change if the police were human. Would it become a story about human beings instead of pigs? (For example, would the story be headlined "Police Save Pig"?)

Option 2: A Twist on Perspective

"Everybody knows the story of the Three Little Pigs. Or at least they think they do. But I'll let you in on a little secret. Nobody knows the real story, because nobody has ever heard my side of the story." So says the wolf as he introduces *The True Story of the Three Little Pigs!* Read the story to your class and discuss point of view. Examine how the point of view has been changed from the traditional version, in which it is very clear who are the good guys and who is the bad guy. In the "true" story, the wolf explains that he really wasn't doing anything wrong; the pigs, who are the real villains, framed him.

Discuss point of view in other traditional stories, such as Snow White, Little Red Riding Hood, Hansel and Gretel, etc., and brainstorm ways that these stories could be retold from the "bad guy" point of view.

Next, talk about your study of the Civil War. Whose point of view does the textbook mainly seem to represent? Most texts look at the Civil War in an objective way, though the injustices of the South's treatment of the slaves are highlighted. Would the textbook have been written differently if the South had won the war? Discuss with your class how a "true Confederate" would describe the South's secession from the Union or the Emancipation Proclamation.