

Count Silvernose
A Story from Italy
Retold by Eric A. Kimmel

Summary: A folktale from Italy where a mysterious stranger with a nose of silver attempts to manipulate a mother and her daughter.

Vocabulary:

| | | |
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| prattle | beckon | avenge |
| peculiar | wield | savage |
| merciless | meddle | unnerve |

Before Reading Activities:

1. Find Italy on a map. Have students draw a map of the region in their reading journals, taking special care to shade in the country of Italy with colored pencil, and diagram and label its capital city. If time and map detail permit, also assign the inclusion of rivers, lakes, mountain ranges and other important cities in the student diagrams. Encourage the bold use of color.
2. Distribute vocabulary match up pages to students along with dictionaries and allow them to problem solve the completion of these pages to the best of their ability.
3. While students are working on the vocabulary matching pages, prepare two sets of large index cards: one with the vocabulary words, and one with the corresponding definitions. (You may prefer to prepare these cards in advance.) Depending on whether you wish to do this activity on a bulletin-sized flannel board or chalk board, place either flannel patches or tape circles on the backs of the cards. Place word cards in one column and the definition cards in another, with each column being in random order on the board.
Modification tip: You could also use push pins for this activity, on a regular bulletin board.
4. Have students leave their completed (but as of yet uncorrected) vocabulary matching pages on their desks and gather on the floor in front of the activity area / board. Distribute student glossaries (provided with the unit) so learners will have a cross-reference tool as you match the correct word and definition cards together as a group, either by drawing chalk lines, pairing up upon correct matching, or stringing colored yarn between push pins.
5. Students may take the glossaries back to their desks and self correct the vocabulary matching pages. The teacher answer key is provided for you as an additional tool.
6. Using the book jacket / cover design and vocabulary words as clues, brainstorm some pre-reading predictions for the story. Will there be a difficult or troublesome character in the story? Who do the students think that character might / might not be?
7. Assign independent or buddy reading of the story, or consider reading it aloud.