

Apple Critters and Fritters

by Lynn Handshy

Apple Critters

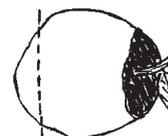
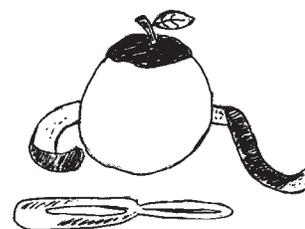
Apple lore pervades American culture. We teachers perpetuate the tradition each year in our classrooms as certainly as apples ripen on trees. In my 1st grade classroom the late summer crop coincides with the beginning of school and the formation of new relationships and the inevitable exploration of feelings. What better way for children to identify feelings than to have them create an apple critter with attitude. Here's how we do it:

What you need:

- * One apple for each child and one for you to use for demonstration.
- * Potato peelers (or knives for adult helpers to use)
- * 1 plastic knife for each child
- * 2 pipe cleaners for each child
- * 2 2X4" pieces of white construction paper each
- * 4 toothpicks each
- * Glue
- * 1 bottle lemon juice

What you do:

1. Peel the apple leaving the stem and top portion of skin. Begin to peel about an inch from the top.
2. (Adult) Slice the bottom 1" off to make flat (cut the slice into half and save to use for fritters)
3. Have children carve faces into apple with plastic knives jack-o-lantern style (spoons work too). The face must express a feeling; happy, mad, scared, etc.
4. Have each child brush lemon juice on the apple. I use a paintbrush dipped into a 1 part lemon juice to 2 parts water solution.
5. Fold the two pieces of paper in half and cut two pairs of mittens. Glue a pair (front and back) to the end of each pipe cleaner.
6. Stick a pipe cleaner on each side of the apple critter's face and bend arms expressively. Insert the four toothpicks into the base for legs.
7. Have children write a label for their critter describing its feeling.



Place the critters on a windowsill and watch the expression change as they dry.