Enrichment Activity for The Jazz Fly

Creating a Jazz Story in Class

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1) Choose two consonants such as "Z" and "D".

2) Have your students create two-syllable jazz words by adding vowel sounds to each. Write the words on the whiteoard as you go, for example *ZA-Dee*, *Du-DAH*, *ZOO-doo*, *DAY-duh*. Use all caps to suggest where to accent the invented words. (Tip: decline to use sounds that are sure to evoke laughter such as Pee-pee, Poo-poo, etc.) Demonstrate to older students how vowel sounds can be written in different ways; i.e. "u" or "oo"; "e" or "eh", "ae" or "ay" etc.)

3) Insert 2-syllable jazz words into spaces 1-3 and 5-7 of the template below. Sample jazz words provided in red.

4) Now have the students create 1-syllable jazz words, for example, *zlip*, *boim*, *schloz*, *fumpf*. Enter a 1-syllable jazz word into space 4. (Tip: try using blends with 'hard' sounding consonants such as "K," "T," "P, "TZ," etc. for humorous effect!)

5) Next, have students create a 3-syllable jazz word. Enter the 3-syllable jazz words into space 8. Tip: these longer phrases will flow well if you accent the first of the three syllables. (Exa. KOCH-a-ku, ZOP-a-dee, ZOOM-vee-bop; TAH-bu-doing.)

6) Now for the fun part! Lead the students in chanting the story, call and response style. (You chant one sentence. They repeat it. Then move on to the next and so forth.) Turn the "performance" into an exercise in drama, snapping your fingers and changing your tone of voice from super serious to loose and jazzy. The "X" marks indicate where to snap your fingers on beats 2 & 4.

I had a ___ZEE-buh__. It used to be a ___ZOY-buh__.
X 1. X X 2. X

But when I got a _BLOO-chee, it turned into a _SKOITZ_.
X 3. X X 4. X

After all the _____DEE-pah_____, I really had to a ___YEE-pah____.
X 5. X X 6. X

So if you want to ___BLIM-bop_____, you're better ZAH-bah-DING!.
X 7. X X 8. X

7) Now ask students what they think the story's about!