

SOCIAL EMOTIONAL LEARNING

SOCIAL SKILLS LESSON PLAN

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SOCIAL SKILL: JOINING IN AND INVITING TO JOIN
CASEL COMPETENCY: RELATIONSHIP SKILLS

BOOK INFORMATION

Book Title: *The Other Side*
Author: Jacqueline Woodson
Publisher: G. P. Putnam's Sons
Year: 2001
ISBN Number: 978-0-399-23116-2
Number of Pages: 29 pages
Reading Level: 2nd grade - 4th grade

BOOK SYNOPSIS

Two girls, one white and one black, gradually get to know each other as they sit on the fence that divides their family property line. Their friendship grows.

LESSON OBJECTIVE

Students will learn about the importance of including others. They will recognize that each of their peers, even those who may seem different in some ways, is a potential friend and has something valuable to contribute to a relationship.

LESSON MATERIALS AND ADVANCE PREPARATION

Materials: large poster or picture cut into pieces, green and blue stickers, tape

Preparation: The teacher will create a puzzle by pasting a picture or poster onto a poster board (light cardboard), then cutting the large picture into pieces (one puzzle piece per student). On the back of each puzzle piece place either a blue or a green sticker, making sure the number of blue pieces equal the number of green pieces. Finally, shuffle the puzzle pieces in preparation for distribution.

KEY VOCABULARY AND CONCEPTS

Inviting - making a polite and friendly request for someone to join you in doing something

PRE-READING ACTIVITY

The teacher will distribute the puzzle pieces with the sticker side up. Tell the students not to turn the piece over because the piece will be used in the post reading activity. Show the front cover of the book.

READ THE BOOK

POST READING ACTIVITY

Before having a discussion about the book, go immediately into the post reading activity. Ask all students with a green sticker on their piece to group together, and all students with a blue sticker on their piece to also group together.

Explain to the students that they have been given the pieces of a puzzle. Each group has 7 minutes to put their puzzle together. The first group to complete the puzzle wins. After allowing students to make an attempt, the teacher/volunteer will stop the class and ask students about their progress. When students explain that they haven't been able to finish the puzzle, ask why (pieces are missing). Move into discussion portion.

POST READING DISCUSSION

Ask your students the following questions:

- How is our classroom like these puzzles?
 - Example answer---“Our classroom is not complete if some people are missing.”
- How did Clover’s friends make Annie feel welcome?
- How can we help everyone feel welcome in our class?
 - Example answer---“Invite friends to participate,” “sharing,” “talking to everyone,” “spending time with lots of different friends.”

CLOSURE

Display the poster (provided) in the room. Refer back to this poster to remind the students about inviting others to join in on activities and the importance of including others.

**I will invite others to
join me!**

