

SOCIAL EMOTIONAL LEARNING

SOCIAL SKILLS LESSON PLAN

CASEL COMPETENCY: SELF-AWARENESS

SOCIAL SKILL: HAVING CONFIDENCE IN ONESELF

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BOOK INFORMATION

Book title: The Rainbow Tulip

Author: Pat Mora

Publisher and date of publication: Penguin Group, 1999

ISBN: 0-670-87291-1

Number of pages: 26

Reading level and interest level: 2-4

BOOK SYNOPSIS

Stella speaks Spanish at home and English at school. Her mother is not like the other mothers in her appearance and language. Stella wants to wear more colors like she sees the American mothers wearing and her mom loves her for it. Stella does well in school and enjoys savoring the sweet and sour of lime sherbet after school. Stella's school is having a May parade and Stella needs to wear a tulip costume. So her aunt makes her one with a different color for each petal. She is very proud of it until she sees the other girls only wearing one color. The parents clap as they march and Stella's mom tries to give her a sweater, but Stella pushes it away. She wishes her mom looked like the other moms and spoke English. Stella weaves the Maypole and notices her mom's quiet smile. Stella's teacher says hello to her mother and she wishes her teacher could speak Spanish. Stella tells her mom that she liked being the only rainbow flower but it was also hard. Her mom says it is hard to be different. It is sweet and sour like her sherbet.

This book could be used to help students understand that their culture differences can be a beautiful thing. It can help students feel confident in their traits, either external or internal.

LESSON OBJECTIVE

The goal of this lesson is for students to develop confidence in themselves. Those who may be self-conscious of their appearance, ethnic background, culture, etc. should understand that differences is what makes them interesting.

LESSON MATERIALS AND ADVANCE PREPARATION

Advance preparation

- Make sure to bring a vase of flower that look different from each other

K-2 Materials

- Vase of flowers
- A piece of construction paper for each student
- Markers, crayons, and colored pencils for each student

3-6 Materials

- Vase of flowers
- A piece of lined paper for each student
- A pencil or pen for each student

KEY VOCABULARY AND CONCEPTS

Buenos dias hijas- Good morning children

Si- Yes

Buenas Tardes- Good afternoon

Maypole- A pole decorated with flowers, around which people traditionally dance on May Day, holding long ribbons that are attached to the top of the pole

PRE-READING ACTIVITY

Show the students a vase filled with different kind of flowers. Show them how many are unique, even the ones that are the same kind. Explain that each of us have things that make us unique, both on the inside and outside.

Show the cover of the book. Explain to students that the story is about a girl who is dealing with her uniqueness. Sometimes she likes it and sometimes she does not.

READ THE BOOK

POST READING DISCUSSION

Ask the students how you know that the Stella is embarrassed of her mother and how you know she is proud of her mother? In what ways are Stella embarrassed of herself and in what ways is she proud of herself. Explain that we know Stella loves her costume, but she also wants to fit in with others.

Stella has similarities and differences between herself and her mom, her teacher, and her friends. She shares a culture and language with her mom. But how do they differ? She shows an interest in learning with her teacher, but how do they differ? She enjoys dancing the maypole with her friends, but how do they differ. These similarities and differences make her interesting and herself.

POST READING ACTIVITY

K-2: Give each student a piece of paper and ask them to draw a picture of themselves and things around them that are important to them. These things could be things from their culture, things from America, things that they like to do, etc. Ask students to share what they drew and why.

3-6: Ask students to write about what is sour and sweet about their life. Ask them to write what they like about their culture, personality, and/or appearance and what is hard about it.

CLOSURE

Explain to students that we can have confidence in ourselves even when we are different. We may sometimes be self-conscious but our differences make us beautiful and interesting.



“Be yourself because an original is worth more than a copy.”

- Anonymous