

SOCIAL EMOTIONAL LEARNING

SOCIAL SKILLS LESSON PLAN

CASEL COMPETENCY: RELATIONSHIP SKILLS

SOCIAL SKILL: RESOLVING CONFLICTS

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BOOK INFORMATION

Book title: First Day in Grapes

Author: L. King Perez

Illustrator: Robert Casilla

Publisher and date of publication: Lee and Low Books Inc., 2002

ISBN: 1-58430-045-0

Number of pages: 29

Reading level: 3-4

Interest level: 2-6

BOOK SYNOPSIS

This book is about Chico's first day of third grade at his new school. Chico is not excited since he has to move to a new school every year while his dad picks fruit in different places. The bus driver has a bad reputation and there are some mean kids on the bus. But a kid on the bus warns him about them. Chico meets his teacher and does the pledge of allegiance and feels happy to be American. He meets a boy named John who tells Chico how the teacher is nice. Chico introduces himself, does a writing assignment, and does math. Chico is good at math from his experience helping his Papa. The teacher invites him to do the math fair. The bullies pick on him and Chico remembers his mom's advice. He starts quizzing the bullies in math problems. They try making fun of him but Chico keeps quizzing them. Finally the bullies say that it is dumb and they leave. After school Chico introduces himself to the bus driver and heads home.

This book could be used to address resolving conflicts since it relies on the character's strengths to resolve conflicts. While some other students have negative opinions about his culture, it is his experience in the culture that allows him to gather the strength to stand up for himself and outsmart the bullies.

LESSON OBJECTIVE

The goal of this lesson is for students to realize that they can resolve conflicts in other ways besides fighting. By using their own strengths and some creativity, they can resolve conflicts effectively.

LESSON MATERIALS AND ADVANCE PREPARATION

List materials needed for pre-reading (attention getting questions) and post-reading activity.

KEY VOCABULARY AND CONCEPTS

Migrant camp: A community where immigrants live and work together

Pronto: Soon

Andale: Hurry

Hola :Hello

Buenos dias, amigo: Good morning, friend

Buenos tardes y gracias: Good afternoon and thank you

Mentality: A person's way of thinking

Reputation: The beliefs that are generally held about someone

Strength: a good or beneficial quality of a person

Respect: Feeling of admiration for someone elicited by their abilities

PRE-READING ACTIVITY

Show the cover of the book. Explain that the book is about a boy who travels with his family to different migrant camps while his dad works as a farmer. Chico refers to each town as the name of the food his dad farms in that location.

Ask students what it may feel like to have to move from different migrant camps during school. How would this affect friendships and opportunities in school?

READ THE BOOK

POST READING DISCUSSION

Ask the students about why Chico wanted to please his teacher? How could this mentality have helped him stand up to the bullies?

What did the mom do to prepare him to stick up to bullies? What did he learn from his dad? How did these help him stand up to the bullies?

How would you describe what gave him strength? What kinds of things give you strengths? How did you get that strength?

After the bullies leave Chico alone, John, Chico's friend asks if they can be partners. Not only did Chico make the bullies leave, but he earned the respect of other people.

POST READING ACTIVITY

K-2: Have students draw a picture of what they are good at. Have them share what they drew. After they share, tell them how they could use that ability next time someone starts an argument with them.

3-6 grade: Ask students to imagine a bully picking on you for something that is part of your culture. You may be tempted to fight them, but there are better ways to handle the conflict. Ask the students to write about what they would do. Then have them describe where they learned these different strengths.

CLOSURE

We are able to solve conflicts when we practice what we are good at and when we are creative. Fighting is only one option. There are many, many more options that we can use when others are trying to hurt us.

Share some of the things the students drew or wrote and remind the class that those can be effective ways to stand up for yourself.

“The bullying stopped when I claimed myself
and proved that I wasn’t afraid.”

- Anonymous

