

# SOCIAL EMOTIONAL LEARNING

## SOCIAL SKILLS LESSON PLAN

### CASEL COMPETENCY: RELATIONSHIP SKILLS

### SOCIAL SKILL: NEGOTIATING CONFLICT CONSTRUCTIVELY

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#### BOOK INFORMATION

Book title: Funny Bones: Posada and his day of the dead *Calaveras*

Author: Duncan Tonatiuh

Publisher and date of publication: Abrams Books for Young Readers, 2015

ISBN: 978-1-4197-1647-8

Number of pages:

Reading level or interest level: 2-6

#### BOOK SYNOPSIS

This is the story about the man who first drew calaveras, skulls, for el Dia de Muertos. Posada's brother noticed that Posada was a good artist so Posada went to art school. He met Don Trinidad who taught Posada about printing and engraving, two mediums for art. Posada also drew satirical cartoons for the newspaper. Political leaders were upset about the cartoons so Posada moved and opened a print shop and did illustrations for books and pamphlets. Posada started drawing skeletons for poems that were becoming popular for el Dia de Muertos. From suggesting that the holiday is not just a celebration of death but also of life, to reminding people that everyone no matter their class will die, his cartoons made people think. When the Mexican revolution started, his cartoons became more serious and suggested that death is not a laughing matter. He also made powerful leaders into skeletons, suggesting that one day they will be powerless.

This book could be used to show how constructively negotiating conflict includes using your talents to illustrate problems.

#### LESSON OBJECTIVE

The goal of this lesson is for students to understand that they can use their talents to address disagreements with others. Students should be able to name a talent and how can help them deal with conflicts with others.

#### LESSON MATERIALS AND ADVANCE PREPARATION

Advance preparation:

- K-2: Make and bring clay for each student
- Decide if you want to read the parts of the book that explain the process of using different art mediums.

- Be ready to share how you used one of your talents to improve a disagreement

#### K-2 Materials:

- Clay
- Pencil or pointed object to engrave

#### 3-6 materials

- Poster board or construction paper for each student
- Markers and colored pencils for each student

### KEY VOCABULARY AND CONCEPTS

Calavera- a representation of a human skull

Satire- the use of exaggeration to expose other people's vices, particularly in the context of politics

Talent- natural skill

Pretentious: attempting to impress by affecting greater importance than is actually possessed

### PRE-READING ACTIVITY

Explain to your students what a talent is. Share one of your talents. Share a story of when you were able to use that talent to handle a disagreement with someone else.

Show the students a picture of a calavera, ideally one by Posada. Explain to the class that the book is about the man who created these, which has become a major symbol of el Dia de Los Muertos. Explain that he used his talent to show what leaders were doing wrong.

### READ THE BOOK

### POST READING DISCUSSION

Ask the students how Posada continued to develop his talent throughout his life. Ask them what they could do to develop theirs. Explain that because he was so talented and worked so hard that people listened to him when he promoted change.

Show the illustration of the calavera in the Revolution. Ask the class why this was important? Explain that as they get older there are different causes they will feel passionate about and that using your talents to comment on them could get people to listen. Ask them how they think their talents could help address conflict.

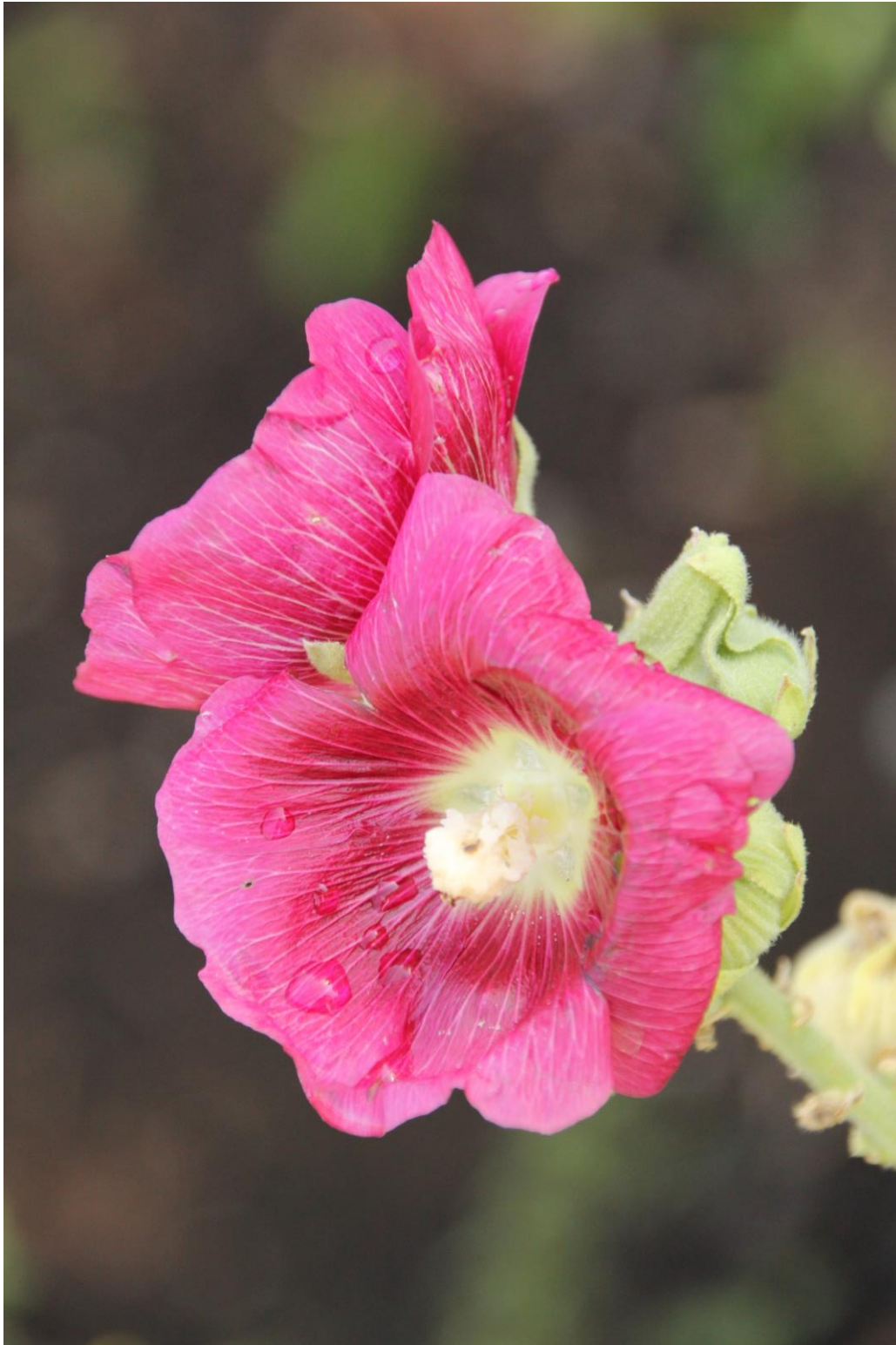
### POST READING ACTIVITY

K-2: Give students some clay and a pencil or other pointed object. Ask them to "draw" a picture of themselves doing something they are good at to address a conflict. Have students dry the clay out in the sun. Ask students share what they created and how it addresses a conflict.

3-6: Ask students to make a poster for something they care about. Have them draw a picture of themselves using their talent to address a conflict. Encourage the students to try drawing skeletons for the assignments. They should include some kind of rhyme that captions the picture. Have students share what the conflict and talent are.

## CLOSURE

Remind the students that they can use their talents to address disagreements with others. Explain that all of them have talents that can continue to improve with practice. Explain that just as you solved conflict with your talent, and Posada used his talent to address a conflict, they can be creative when they have disagreements.



"Peace is not absence of conflict. It is the ability to handle conflict  
by peaceful means."  
- Ronald Reagan