

SOCIAL EMOTIONAL LEARNING

SOCIAL SKILLS LESSON PLAN

CASEL SEL COMPETENCY: SELF-AWARENESS

SOCIAL SKILL: SENSE OF CONFIDENCE AND OPTIMISM

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BOOK INFORMATION

Book title: *Joseph Had a Little Overcoat*

Author: Simms Taback

Publisher and date of publication: The Penguin Group; Year: 1977, reprinted in 1992

ISBN: 0-670-87855-3

Number of pages: 33

Reading level or interest level: K-6

BOOK SYNOPSIS

A man named Joseph has an overcoat that is worn out and so he decides to make a jacket out of it. When that is worn out, he made a vest out of it, and when that is worn out, he turns it into a scarf. Over time, the scarf is transformed into a tie, a handkerchief, and a button. Every time he transforms the clothing, he continues to do interesting things and spend time with people he cares about. When he loses the button, he makes a book about the clothing "which shows...you can always make something out of nothing."

LESSON OBJECTIVE

There is usually something we can do about a problem. When problems keep coming, we can continue to find solutions. While the problems come, we can continue to do things that bring us joy.

LESSON MATERIALS AND ADVANCE PREPARATION

Materials: None needed

Preparation:

For older students, print the scenarios for them to read in the activity lesson below.

KEY VOCABULARY AND CONCEPTS

Overcoat: a large coat that goes to the knees or longer.

PRE-READING ACTIVITY

Show the front cover of the book and ask the children what they notice about his clothes. Ask them what they think Joseph's life is like.

READ THE BOOK

POST READING DISCUSSION

Ask your class the following questions:

- What did Joseph do to fix his problem when his clothing got worn out?
- How did Joseph respond when he first noticed that his clothing had worn out?
- After Joseph fixed each problem, what things did he enjoy getting to do?
- How could Joseph have responded when he had a problem?
- What good came from him continuing to fix the problem?

POST READING ACTIVITY

Have the students get in a circle and read a scenario. Have the student next to you share what went wrong, and the next student share about what they did about it, and so on until all students have shared what went wrong or what they did about it. Encourage the students to be creative on how they address the problem.

Suggested scenario ideas:

- Jose was playing basketball and (difficult thing that happened) so (how he resolved it)
- Danielle got an A on an assignment and (difficult thing that happened) so (how she resolved it).
- Morgan jumped on her trampoline and (difficult thing that happened) so (how she resolved it)

CLOSURE

Have the students share what kind of problems frustrate them and how they first respond. Point out that there are always other options for how they respond and the best option is the one that will help them continue to be happy. Find out what they do to fix the problem and how it makes them feel.

We can make something out of nothing.

*"Do what you can
with what you have
where you are"*

-Theodore Roosevelt

