

SOCIAL EMOTIONAL LEARNING

SOCIAL SKILLS LESSON PLAN

CASEL COMPETENCY: SOCIAL AWARENESS

SOCIAL SKILL: RESPECT FOR OTHERS

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BOOK INFORMATION

Book title: *A Different Pond*

Author: Bao Phi

Illustrator: Thi Bui

Publisher and date of publication: Capstone Young Readers, 2017

ISBN: 9781479597468

Number of pages: 26

Reading level: 2-3

Interest level: 2-6

BOOK SYNOPSIS

The narrator describes his dad waking him up hours before the sun came up to go fishing. They get ready and the boy explains that his classmate thinks his dad's English sounds like a thick dirty river, but to the narrator it sounds like gentle rain. They pick up bait where the storeowner finds out that the dad is there so early because he works two jobs. The boy finds out that even with the two jobs they still have to fish for food because everything in America costs so much. The boy explains that sometimes there are other people there to fish, but this time it is just the two of them. The boy helps gather twigs for a fire, and, with one match, he gets it to light; the dad nods in approval as the boy smiles. They eat breakfast as they wait for a fish to bite; they talk about how the dad used to fish in a pond like it in Vietnam with his brother who never came home after the war. They catch two fish and the father laughs at the funny face the narrator makes. The father is relieved that they will have food for tonight. They get home and the dad tells the mom that the son did a good job with the fire. The parents go to work as the narrator is watched by his older siblings. At dinner, the narrator's siblings tell jokes; the mom asks them about homework. The dad nods and smiles while he eats his food with his eyes half closed; the narrator smiles and nods. That night he dreams of fish in faraway ponds.

This book will help teach respect for others since the characters in the book show respect to each other, even with evidence that others have disrespected them.

LESSON OBJECTIVE

The goal for this bibliotherapy lesson is for students to learn how to respect the everyday things that others do, especially people who may not be a part of their culture.

LESSON MATERIALS AND ADVANCE PREPARATION

Materials

- Paper
- Colored pencils, markers, and/or crayons
- Writing pencils or pens

Advanced preparation:

- (Optional) Contact parents a week before and ask them to tell their children what they know about their ancestors. Around when did they immigrate to the USA? Where did they come from? What events made them come here in the first place? How does the student try to honor their heritage?
- If you want to pair students with a particular student for the interview, be prepared with the pairs you have in mind.

KEY VOCABULARY AND CONCEPTS

Tackle box: box designed for fishing equipment

Vietnam War: a war fought in the 60s and 70s that resulted in many immigrants coming to the USA

Immigrant: a person who comes to live permanently in a foreign country

Ancestor: a person from whom a person is descended

Heritage: the stories and places an individual's ancestors came from

PRE-READING ACTIVITY

Ask the students if they have ever gone fishing. Did they keep the fish or eat it? What were their responsibilities? Show them the book. Explain that in the book the narrator, the boy, goes fishing but talks about other ponds. Tell them to keep this in mind throughout the book.

READ THE BOOK

POST READING DISCUSSION

What does the other pond refer to? How do you think the dad's experiences shape the narrator's interest in his family's life in Vietnam? What cultures are you interested in learning more about? Throughout the book the dad and son smile and nod at each other. What do you think this means for them? What are ways that we can show respect for our families, friends, communities, and those from other cultures?

What about the members of the family do you respect and admire? Who in your life do you respect and admire? After reading the book, are there other people or groups of people you respect more?

Now that you have heard the book, what would you say to the kid at the narrator's school who made fun of the narrator's dad's English?

POST READING ACTIVITY

2-3rd grade: Have students draw two ponds next to each other. In one pond, they should draw things that are meaningful to them and in the other pond; they should draw pictures of things that were important to the people in the book. Have them share what they drew, including things that are in common between the two ponds.

4-6 grade: (If you can tell parents about this activity ahead of time so they can talk with their child before, that would ideal). Have students color a picture that shows about their ancestors. Around when did they immigrate to the USA? Where did they come from? What events made them come here in the first place? How does the student try to honor their heritage? Have the students share about their families and ask questions to show interest. Share that by asking questions we show others with different backgrounds that we want to understand them.

4-6 grade: Have the students interview a classmate about their family and culture. What does your family care about? What do your parents spend time doing? What do your siblings spend time doing? What holidays do you celebrate? What part of the world are your ancestors from? Have each person in the pair interview the other person. Once students have interviewed their classmates, have them go to the front of the class and share what they learned about their classmate

CLOSURE

Wrap up the lesson with a few statements fortifying the lesson's objectives. Challenge students to set a goal related to the lesson's objectives. During the week, check in with students to monitor progress towards meeting their goal. Post a visible reminder of the lesson's main objective (poster).

Learning to respect people in our families and learning to respect people in other cultures is an important part of getting along with others. When we can appreciate others' backgrounds and what they have experienced we can become better friends.



"I speak to everyone in the same way, whether he is the garbage man or the president of the university."

- *Albert Einstein*