

SOCIAL EMOTIONAL LEARNING

SOCIAL SKILLS LESSON PLAN

CASEL COMPETENCY: SOCIAL AWARENESS

SOCIAL SKILL: PERSPECTIVE TAKING

Lesson plan created by Melissa Heath

BOOK INFORMATION

Book Title: Duck! Rabbit!

Author: Amy Krouse Rosenthal

Publisher: Chronicle

Year: 2009

ISBN Number: 978-0811868655

Number of Pages: 40

Grade level interest: Story is appropriate for all ages, minimal text

BOOK SYNOPSIS

Two characters argue whether clouds look like a duck or a rabbit. The story continues as these two characters perceive the cloud as looking and acting similar to a duck or a rabbit, depending on the character's point of view. The two characters disagree on their peer's point of view.

LESSON OBJECTIVE

Help students to respectfully listen and consider another person's point of view.

LESSON MATERIALS AND ADVANCE PREPARATION

For the post-reading activity, consider the needs and interests of your students. Select one of the following activities:

(1) Tallying Viewpoints (all ages): two colors of small sticky notes, draw two columns on the whiteboard/backboard, at the top of one column draw the rabbit; at the top of the other column draw the duck. Use one color of the sticky notes to represent votes for the duck and one color to represent votes for the rabbit. Place these votes in the corresponding column.

(2) Listening to Another Person's Point of View (all ages): Select one of the abstract pictures (at the end of this lesson plan) and copy one per child, or one for each dyad pair to share.

(3) Video: Kid President: How to Disagree (all ages): (4 minutes 18 seconds)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dG5fkAgJmqc> In advance, watch the video and set up the necessary equipment/technology to show in the classroom.

KEY VOCABULARY AND CONCEPTS

Review vocabulary and concepts that might be unfamiliar to your students. Definitions are paraphrased from [www.dictionary.com].

- **Perspective:** a particular attitude toward or way of regarding something; a point of view, the way we see things and think about things

- **Point of view:** a personal opinion, attitude, or judgment; our point of view changes as we get older and have more experiences
- **Disagree:** not seeing eye-to-eye; having opposing views; not coming to the same conclusion; we disagree when our point of view differs from the other person's point of view
- **Respect for another's point of view:** This requires maturity and knowing that everyone sees things from a different point of view; being willing to listen to others who might disagree with us; allowing others to express their side of the story or their point of view

PRE-READING ACTIVITY

Ask the students if they have ever tried to find animal shapes in the clouds. Show the front cover of the book. Explain that this story is about two people looking at the clouds and seeing an animal. Although these two people see the exact same thing, they do not interpret what they see in the same way. In fact, they strongly disagree. Listen carefully to the story and try to understand why these two people disagree.

READ THE BOOK

POST READING DISCUSSION

Show the "peace" hand sign. Explain that this is like rabbit ears when fingers are pointed up vertically--and like a duck's beak when the fingers are placed horizontally. Open and shut your fingers like a duck's beak.

Select and discuss a few of the following questions. Be prepared to offer examples to help prompt the students to share their examples.

- In this story, why were the two people disagreeing?
- Offer examples of when you or the students have had a disagreement with someone.
- What may happen when people disagree (e.g., arguing, raising voice, name calling, ridiculing the other person, fighting, or possibly avoiding an argument by remaining quiet).
- When disagreeing with someone, what kind of feelings do you experience (e.g., confusion, frustration, anger, a desire to keep arguing, or possibly a desire to escape and avoid the argument)?
- When there is an opposing opinion, have you ever asked to hear the other person's point of view and why they see things differently? Ask for examples.
- How does listening carefully to another person's point of view show your respect for that individual?
- Have you ever "agreed to disagree?" Ask for examples.
- Have you ever changed your opinion when the other person shared their point of view and the reason for their opinion? Ask for examples.

POST READING ACTIVITY

(1) Tallying Viewpoints (appropriate for all ages)

- Make two columns on the blackboard/whiteboard. Based on the simple drawings in the book, draw a rabbit at the top of one column and a duck at the top of the other column.

- Ask each class member to vote on whether they saw a duck or a rabbit (raise of hands). Depending on the student's vote, allow each student to put a colored sticky note in the appropriate column.
- Tally the votes and circle the vote count on the blackboard/whiteboard.
- Explain that even though some people sided with the rabbit, they could respectfully listen to those who did not agree.
- Ask the class to form two teams, one that sides with the rabbit and one that sides with the duck. Explain that each team will have a turn to talk, but while the opposite team is expressing their viewpoint, the other team must quietly listen (no talking out of turn). Show respect by giving each team the time to explain their perspective (uninterrupted).
 - Ask the duck team to stand up. Ask for volunteers to explain why they think the cloud resembled a duck. After a few minutes of explanation, ask the duck team to be seated.
 - Ask the rabbit team to stand up. Ask for volunteers to explain why they think the cloud resembled a rabbit. After a few minutes of explanation, ask the rabbit team to be seated.
- Compliment the students for good listening skills and for allowing others to express an opposing view. Explain that everyone is entitled to their own opinion. Explain that even though students sided with either the rabbit or the duck, they could respectfully listen to those who did not agree with their point of view.

(2) **Listening to Another Person's Point of View** (appropriate for all ages)

- Pair off into dyads. Give each dyad one of the black and white abstract pictures (at the end of this lesson plan). Allow one minute for students to look at the picture. Ask students to use their imagination to think about what the picture might represent. Ground rule: No arguing allowed. We will listen carefully to each other.
- Within the dyad, take turns, allowing one person, and then the other, to quietly explain what they saw in the picture. Explain that each person will have 1 minute to offer their viewpoint, then switch, allowing the other partner to have 1 minute to explain what they saw in the picture.
- After the dyads have taken turns, ask the following questions:
 - Which points did the students agree upon?
 - What points did the students disagree upon?
 - Did anyone change their mind after hearing their partner's point of view?
 - Did each dyad follow the ground rule of "no arguing?"
- Compliment the students for showing respect and listening to other points of view.

(3) **Video** (appropriate for all ages)

Consider showing the following YOUTUBE video:

- **Kid President: How to Disagree** (4 minutes 18 seconds)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dG5fkAgJmqc>

EXTRA RESOURCES: During the coming month, to reinforce the importance of understanding perspective, consider showing one of the following short videos:

- (all ages) **"The TRUE story of the 3 little pigs"**—Story told from the wolf's perspective--by A. Wolf as told to Jon Scieszka. Grandma Annii's Story Time (8 minutes 20 seconds)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vB07RfntTvw>
- (all ages) **10 Mind Blowing Optical Illusions** (3 minutes 58 seconds)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vB07RfntTvw>
- (grades 3–6) **Nobody Can See All The Hidden Animals--- Brain Teasers** (7 minutes 33 seconds)—To save time, you might choose a couple of the pictures of hidden animals that are included in this YouTube video.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2PD55fyRBxI>

CLOSURE

Wrap up the lesson with a few statements fortifying the lesson's objectives.

Challenge students to set a goal that is related to the lesson's objectives. Give examples, such as,

- "When I disagree, I will listen to the other person and try to understand their point of view."
- "Every person has a right to their own opinion. I respect your opinion."

During the week/month, check in with students to monitor progress towards meeting their goal.

POSTER: Post a visible reminder of the lesson's main objective. Two posters are included in this lesson plan.

PRACTICE THE SOCIAL SKILL

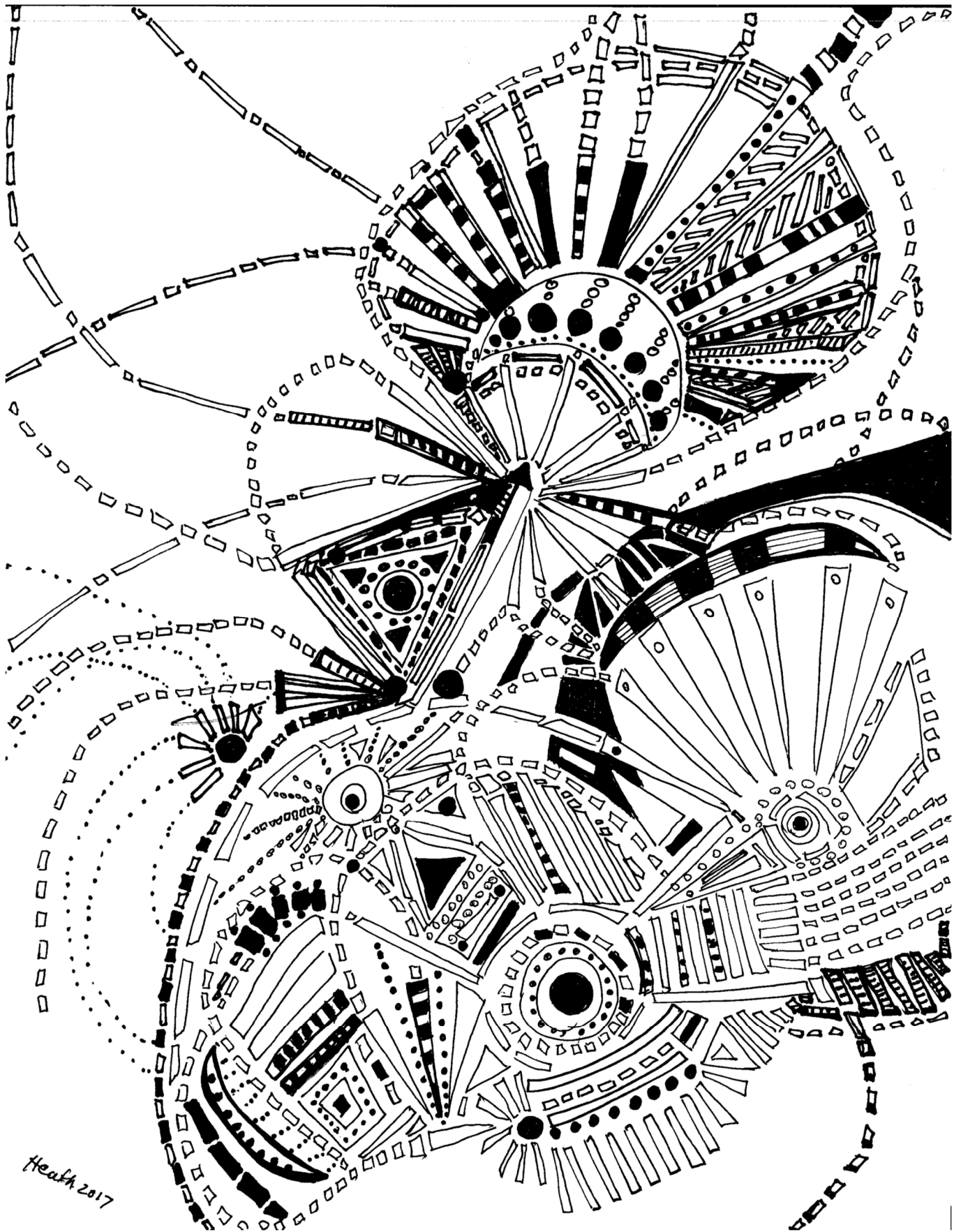
SOCIAL SKILL: CONSIDER OTHERS' POINTS OF VIEW

When disagreements arise, rather than getting into a heated argument, I...

- (1) Breathe in deeply, then breathe out slowly.
- (2) Listen to the other person's point of view (no arguing).
- (3) Explain my point of view (no arguing).
- (4) I may agree or "agree to disagree."







Heath 2017



What we see depends on our perspective

“What we see depends mainly on
what we look for.” — John Lubbock

