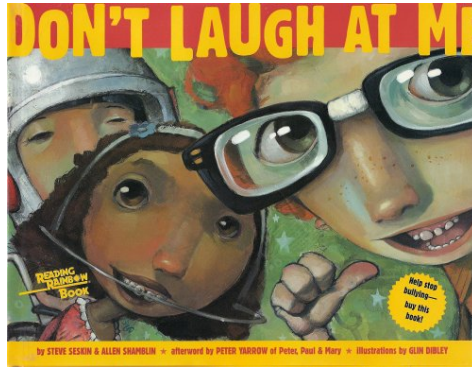


LESSON PLAN: DON'T LAUGH AT ME

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Objective:

- Students will gain an appreciation for the diversity of different people.
- Students will understand how hurtful remarks can make other people feel.

New York State Learning Standards:

Pre-Kindergarten: 1-7, 9-11

Kindergarten: 1-4, 6, 7, 9-11

First Grade: 1-3, 5-7, 9, 11

Second Grade: 1, 3, 5, 7, 11

Materials:

Don't Laugh at Me, drawing paper, crayons, markers, and chart paper.

Vocabulary:

geek	braces	friend
beggar	dreaming	playground

Before Reading:

- Discuss the cover of the book and the illustrations.
- Ask students to describe the illustration on the cover and ask them why they think the book is titled *Don't Laugh at Me*.
- Ask students what they think about the illustrations in the book and the details they notice.
- Talk about how making fun of someone who looks or acts differently from you is a form of bullying and how each of us can break this cycle.

- Ask students to think of ways that children may bully or tease other kids. List these on a chart for comparison after the story is read.

Reading:

Read *Don't Laugh at Me* aloud to the class.

Discussion Questions:

Ask students the following questions so they can reflect and think critically about the story:

Pages 1-2:

Why does the boy think that other children call him a geek?

Pages 3-4:

Why does the little girl cry herself to sleep?

Pages 5-6:

Why is the boy on the playground sad?

Pages 7-9: What message is the boy on pg. 9 trying to give us?

Pages 9-10:

What happens to the girl who is on stage? How would you feel if that was you?

Pages 11-12:

What does the man on pg. 12 want us to know? What does he mean when he says, "Don't think I don't notice that our eyes never meet."

Pages 13-14: Why does the boy on pg. 14 feel bad sometimes? What do you think is the simple way to show him how much you care?

Pages 15-16:

What are some of the things the characters in the book want you to know? What does it mean, "Don't get your pleasure from my pain?"

Pages 17-18:

What do the characters on these pages want you to understand about them?

Pages 19-20: What are the characters in the book telling us on pgs.19-20? Ask students to think of some ways to show other people that they care about them.

Guided Practice:

- Have students draw a picture of themselves and dictate or write three or more words that describe who they are.
- Compare the pictures and discuss how each one of us is different from each other.
- Talk about the things that students are good at and those they are not so good at and list these on a chart.
- Discuss how we all have our own strengths and talents.
- Ask students why they think it is important to be kind to each other and not make judgments about people just from their physical appearances.

Closure:

Play the accompanying audio CD for the class and have them sing along. Words to the book/song can be written on chart paper for students to refer to as they listen to/sing the song.

Bibliography:

Seskin, Steve and Allen Shamblin. *Don't Laugh At Me*. Berkeley, Toronto: Tricycle Press, 2002.