

BUSTER

K-3

Written and Illustrated by Denise Fleming

Published by Henry Holt and Company

Story Summary

Buster was a very happy dog. He had everything he could want. Then one day his owner, Brown Shoes, brought home a big box. Inside the big box was something Buster did not want...and that something was named Betty. You will follow Buster on his exciting adventure and see what happens for him to realize that Betty is a pretty good companion after all!

Objectives

1. To develop strategies for coping with fears.
2. To develop an understanding of what it means to adapt to change in our daily routines.
3. To develop verbal expressive skills through brainstorming ideas.

Before viewing the video

Tell the children that when they view this video, they will meet the author of *Buster*, Denise Fleming. This is the story about a dog who is very happy until, one day, something comes along named Betty. Betty is a cat who will be living with Buster. There is a problem, because Buster is afraid of cats. As they watch this video, ask the children to think about some fears that they or their friends might have and how they might deal with them. Ask the children who have younger siblings how they felt when a new baby came in to the house. Ask if their feelings changed as the baby got older.

Questions to ask after viewing the video

1. Brown Shoes gave buster many things that made him happy. What were some of these things?
2. When the big box came in to the house, what was Buster hoping for?
3. How did Buster feel after that big box was opened?
4. How did Betty try to attract Buster's attention? How did Buster feel about all of this?
5. What did Buster do to try and get away from Betty?
6. Buster had a wonderful time at first when he went to the park. When was Buster's good time in the park over?
7. What did Buster do to try and find his way home?
8. How did Betty help Buster when he needed help?
9. How did Buster change his feelings about Betty?

Activities

1. Have a class discussion "Sometimes I am Afraid." Encourage the class to verbalize some of our common fears. Brainstorm ways to overcome these fears. Elicit strategies from children who have conquered specific fears.
2. Have a discussion about household or daily activity changes the children have experienced. What did they do to make these changes easier? Who are the people in their lives who helped them adapt to change?
3. Create a bulletin board based on Buster. Encourage the children to use the illustrations in the book to create their own version of Buster as he is portrayed by the author in different moods. For example, draw Buster as fearful, happy, lost, playful and happy with Betty.
4. Ask the children to imagine a conversation between Buster and Betty. Write a dialog "If Buster and Betty Could Talk." Have the children each contribute a sentence to this scenario of meeting for the first time, Buster going off to the park, and Buster returning to the house and reuniting with Betty.

