

Ella - The Elegant Elephant

K-3

By Carmella and Steven D'Amico

**Published by Arthur A. Levine Books
Spoken Arts - 9707**

Story Summary

Ella is the littlest elephant in Little Village. She has moved to a new neighborhood and will soon be starting at a brand new school. She takes her grandma's lucky hat along for good luck, but Belinda Blue, one of the girls in the new class, does not like Ella or her hat. Belinda changes her mind when Ella's hat takes both of them on a special adventure!

Objectives

The children will develop strategies for approaching a shy child.

The children will develop strategies for welcoming a new child.

The children will develop strategies for dealing with a bully.

Before Viewing the Video

1. Ask the children if they have ever joined a group as a "new" person. Ask them to describe their feelings.
2. Ask the children if they have any special toy or doll that helps them feel comfortable when they are going to a new place.
3. Ask them to talk about a time when they felt "nervous."
4. Discuss the meaning of the word "elegant" and ask them for examples of things that are elegant (refined, dignified, graceful).

Questions to ask after viewing the video

1. What kind of store did Ella's mother have in town?
2. Why was Ella worried?
3. What was Ella's surprise when she opened the dusty, wooden hatbox?
4. What did Ella think about grandma's hat when she tried it on?
5. How did Ella look different from all of the other elephants on the first day of school?
6. What did Belinda Blue do to upset Ella?
7. How did the other elephants try to get Ella to break the rules?
8. What happened to Belinda when she broke the rules?
9. Describe the amazing, magical thing that happened when Ella helped Belinda.
10. What was Ella's surprise when she went to school the next day?

11. How do you think the children felt about Ella then?

Activities

1. Have the children draw pictures of them looking “elegant”.
2. Encourage a “getting-to-know-you” experience. Ask each child to mention one thing they like or like to do that the class does not know about.
3. Have a magical experience in the classroom. Have the children write about an everyday object that they own that suddenly becomes magical. Draw an illustration to show what it can do.
4. Write a conversation you might have with a “new” student in the class. The goal is to make this student feel welcome.
5. Belinda hurts Ella’s feelings when she tells her, “That is a dumb hat. It doesn’t even match your uniform.” Have the class create a list of responses that Ella could say.