

MR. OUCHY'S FIRST DAY

K-3

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Story Summary

In this book you will meet Mr. Ouchy, a teacher with a case of first-day jitters. Will his students like him? What if he can't remember their names? What if he can't even find the bathroom? Fortunately, Mr. Ouchy's students have plenty of their own questions, and together they have a great day telling time, spelling Mr. Ouchy's silly-sounding name, and just having fun. This is an upbeat classroom story with a funny twist on the first day of school experience, and its lively illustrations are sure to please young readers. This story will help young children explore their feelings about beginning a new school year.

Objectives

1. The children will develop an understanding of the feelings that children and teachers share on the first day of school.
2. The children will develop an understanding of others who work in the school and the feelings that they have about the first day.
3. The children will develop verbal expressive skills as they talk about their feelings and expectations for the school year.
4. The children will develop the confidence to approach the teacher to ask questions and engage in discussion.

Before viewing the video

Tell the children that when they view this video they will meet the author of this book. Ask them to think about how they felt the first time they walked into this classroom. How did you prepare for the first day of school? How did your parents help you? Tell the class that, in the video they are about to see, they will discover that the children in the book are not the only ones who have questions and concerns about the first day of school. Ask them about other "firsts" and how they felt. Some examples might be the first time on a bike, the first time you played with a new friend, the first time at the dentist.

Questions to ask after viewing the video

1. What did Mr. Ouchy do to prepare for his first day of school? Did you do any of the same things before your first day?
2. What did Mr. Ouchy worry about as he tried to go to sleep before the first day of school? Did you worry about any of these things?
3. Why do the children have questions about their teacher's name?
4. Mr. Ouchy gives the class a good explanation of a "long minute" and a "short minute." Give us an example of what a "long" and "short" minute is like for you.
5. Before the children get ready to go home, Mr. Ouchy talks about all of the things they have learned the first day. Can you remember what these things were that they learned?
6. Mr. Ouchy asks the children to make a list of the things they would like to learn that year. What were some of those things? Do you think Mr. Ouchy will try to help the children learn those things? Look for a clue that tells you he will try to help.
7. Mr. Ouchy's mother had many questions for him after the first day of school. What did she want to know? What does your mother ask you when you get home from school?
8. How do you think the class felt about their first day with Mr. Ouchy as their teacher? Why do you think that?

Activities

1. Develop a list of the people who work in a school and some of the things that might concern them on the first day. You may wish to talk about the bus drivers, the school nurse, the people who prepare lunch, the principal and the school custodians.
2. Discuss how you as a teacher felt on the first day of school and ask the children how they felt. In which ways were these feelings alike?
3. Have the children contribute their drawings to a class bulletin board called "How We Got Ready for the First Day." Have them illustrate one thing they did that helped them feel better about preparing for this day.
4. Have an "ask the teacher" session. Encourage each child to ask the teacher questions about what they will be learning during the year or ask about something they would like to learn during the course of the year.

6. Invite a guest speaker. Ask the nurse, the principal or another familiar school figure to come in a talk about their concerns before the first day of school.