

# **Stand Tall, Molly Lou Melon**

**K-3**

**Written by Patty Lovell  
Illustrated by David Catrow**

**Published by Farrar, Straus and Giroux  
Running Time: 18:30  
Spoken Arts Video - 9703**

## ***Story Summary***

Molly Lou Melon is short and clumsy, has buck teeth, and has a voice that sounds like a bullfrog being squeezed by a boa constrictor. She doesn't mind. Her grandmother has always told her to walk proud, smile big, and sing loud, and she takes that to heart. But then Molly Lou has to start in a new school. A horrible bully picks on her on the very first day, but Molly Lou Melon knows just what to do about that!

## ***Objectives***

Children will talk about the concept of self-esteem and its meaning to them.  
Children will participate in a story-round, each contributing part of a story.  
Children will compare and contrast art done in color with black and white pictures.

## ***Before viewing the video***

Tell the children they are going to see a video about a little girl who moves away from her home and has to go to a new school. How do they think she feels about leaving her home and her friends? How will it be to go to a new school where she doesn't know anyone? What kind of person will have a hard time making this adjustment, and who will have an easier time?

## ***Questions to ask after viewing the video***

1. What did Molly Lou look like?
2. What did the author compare her voice to?
3. What did her grandmother tell her?
4. How do you think Molly Lou felt on her first day of her new school?
5. Name three of the things she did well in her new school.
6. Why did Ronald bring Molly Lou a stacking penny?

### **Activities**

1. Introduce the idea of self-esteem and discuss with the children how Molly Lou had self-esteem and how this helped her in her new school. How did her grandmother help her gain self-esteem?
2. Ask the children to create a story-in-the-round. Have one child start a new story idea or you start one, and go around the room, each continuing the story.
3. David Catrow's use of color and detail in this story is fabulous. Ask the children to imagine what some of his pictures would look like without the beautiful colors he used. Give each student two pieces of art paper. Have them draw the same scene twice, once with a regular pencil and once with crayons or paints. Hang them side by side to compare.
4. Ask the children to write about a time when they were starting something new or going to a new place with new people. How did they feel before they got there? How did they approach new people? Did they make friends?

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