

THE HAT

K-3

Written and Illustrated

By Jan Brett

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Story Summary

When Lisa's woolen stocking flies off the clothesline, Hedgie finds it and pokes his nose in. He tries to pull it out, but the stocking gets stuck on his prickles. Many animals come by: a mother hen, a noisy goose, a talkative barn cat, a playful farm dog, a mama pig and her piglets, and a pony. They all laugh at Hedgie, especially when he pretends he is wearing a new hat, but you will see how Hedgie has the last laugh.

Objectives

1. The children will develop a sense of empathy for Hedgie, who is the object of laughter from the other animals.
2. The children will develop an appreciation for the problem-solving techniques that Hedgie used.
3. The children will share experiences of situations where they may have been the object of laughter from others.

Before viewing the video

Tell the children that the author went to a country called Denmark to write this story and draw the beautiful illustrations you will see. If a map is available, indicate Denmark. The author, Jan Brett, has a real hedgehog named Buffy who is part of her family in the United States. She thought about writing this story when she found Buffy one day, stuck in a slipper sock and unable to get out because of her prickles. As they view the video, they will see different illustrations on each page. They should look carefully at the clothesline at the top as the story progresses and see how it changes.

Questions to ask after viewing the video

1. Why do you think Lisa is hanging her winter clothes up in the fresh air?
2. What happened to the stocking that the strong wind blew away?
3. What happened to Hedgie because he was so curious?
4. How does Hedgie feel about having the stocking stuck on his prickles?
5. How does Hedgie explain the sock on his head to the hen and her chicks?
6. How does Hedgie explain the sock on his head to the gander?
7. When Hedgie is talking to the barn cat, why does he say he is wearing the stocking on his head?
8. How does Hedgie explain the stocking to the farm dog and her puppies?
9. What does Hedgie then say to the mama pig and to the pony?
10. How does Lisa help Hedgie solve his problem?
11. Why did all of the animals stop laughing at Hedgie?
12. How did Lisa discover why her clothesline was missing all of her woolens?

Activities

1. Engage the class in a discussion about a time when they did something that resulted in others laughing at them. How did they feel? What did they do? As they share common experiences, they will see that this is something that others experience as well.
2. Engage the class in a discussion about how Hedgie must have felt when the animals laughed at him. What evidence do you have that even though they laughed, they liked what he said?
3. Have the class make “crazy hats” out of construction paper. Each child should develop a creative use for his or her hat.
4. Have a “Hat Day” when the children bring in a special hat from home. Talk about where the family member got this hat and when they like to wear it. Have a “Hat Parade” and visit another class.