

The Recess Queen

K-3

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Spoken Arts Video 9689

Running Time: 7 Minutes

Story Summary

Mean Jean was Recess Queen and nobody said any different. Nobody could do ANYTHING on the playground until Mean Jean did it first. And if kids ever crossed her, well, she was mean! UNTIL a new kid came to school....

Objectives

Children will talk about their feelings about a bully in a safe environment.
Children will classify words into different groups, noting that some belong to more than one group.
Children will write and illustrate stories putting their ideas into correct sequences.

Before viewing the video

1. Ask the children what the word 'bully' means. Tell them that during this discussion, no one should mention a particular person by name. Ask them to describe the kinds of things a bully might do.
2. Where have they encountered a bully?
3. How do they feel when the bully is around? What happens?

Questions to ask after viewing the video

1. Why are the children so afraid of Mean Jean?
2. What are some of the things she does to the children?
3. Why isn't Katie Sue afraid of her?
4. What did Katie Sue ask Mean Jean that no one else had ever asked before?
5. How do you think Mean Jean felt when Katie Sue asked her to play?

Activities

1. Divide the class into three groups. One group will write a list of words that describe how it feels to be around a bully. The second group will write a list of words that describe how the bully might feel when he/she is being mean. The third group writes a list of words describing how Katie Sue felt on that playground. Ask the groups to read their lists aloud. Are there any words that are in more than one list? How does that happen?
2. This story about a bully had a happy ending. Not all bullies will react the way Mean Jean did toward Katie Sue. Ask the children to discuss other ways to handle a bully. Do they think an adult can help?
3. Have the children write stories about an episode that either happened to them or to someone they know involving a bully. It is important that they do not use the real name of any person.
4. Using the stories from #3, ask the children to draw 4-10 pictures illustrating the events in their stories. Write captions under each picture and cut each picture out into separate pictures. Have the children staple them together in the order in which they occurred, making a book.

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