

Trouble in the Barkers' Class

K-3

Written and Illustrated by Tomie dePaola

Published by G. P. Putnam's Sons
Spoken Arts - 9709

Story Summary

Morgie and Moffie are so excited because a new student is joining their class! When Ms. Shepard introduces Carole Anne to the class, she causes trouble. She pushes the children, she scribbles on Morgie's drawing and even throws his dinosaur book into the bushes. She keeps on doing things that upset the class and Ms. Shepherd. The class finds some ways to ignore her. One Saturday, Morgie hears Carole Anne crying near his house and finds out what is wrong before there is more trouble in the class.

Objectives

1. The children will develop sensitivity for what it is like to be the "new" student in the class.
2. The children will develop strategies for dealing with a student who is causing "trouble" in school.

Before viewing the video

Tell the children that they will be seeing a video about the Barker twins and a new student in their class. If they have seen and read *Meet the Barkers*, have a quick review of that book. In this book, Morgie, Moffie and the rest of the class are happy until Carole Anne joins the group. Ask them to think about a time when they have tried to make friends with someone and it just did not work out. After watching this video, the class will talk about some ways to try to get to know someone who does not seem happy to be the "new" one in class. Tell the children to be sure to look at the different expressions on Carole Anne's face and think of some good words to describe them.

Questions to ask after viewing the video

1. How do the children plan to welcome the new girl to class?
2. What did Carole Anne do when Ms. Shepherd introduced her to the children?
3. What did Carole Anne do when the children told her to stop pushing in line?
4. Morgie did not know what to say after he tried to show Carole Anne his T-Rex. Why was that?
5. What did Carole Anne do when Morgie tried to find out why she scribbled on his book?
6. Morgie and Moffie are trying to figure out what to do. What does the class decide to do the next day in school?

7. What happens when Ms. Shepherd tries to talk to Carole Anne about this problem?
8. What happens when Morgie finds Carole Anne alone and lost?
9. How does Carole Anne explain her behavior in school to the class?

Activities

1. Have the class make a list of things that can be done to welcome a new student to the class.
2. Talk about the different emotions felt by the children in the class and by Carole Anne. Look at the illustrations and find faces in the book that express these emotions.
3. Have the children write a story about a time when they were the “new” person in a group. It might be a play group, an athletic team, a neighborhood, or just going to a birthday party where you do not know anyone else.
4. Have the children select an illustration in the book where Carole Anne is “causing trouble.” Have them label it with an original dialog in an attempt to find a solution for the problem.
5. Have the children create paper bag puppets of the characters in the story. Have them act out what was actually said to Carole Anne by the students and then have them supply an alternate response.