

WOOLBUR

K-3

Written by Leslie Helakoski

Illustrated by Lee Harper

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Story Summary

Woolbur is not like the other sheep in the herd. He runs with the dogs, instead of standing still with the sheep. He won't shear his wool in the springtime, as the other sheep do. Woolbur does many things that make him different from the other sheep. His Maa and Paa are very worried about Woolbur. But Grandpaa doesn't worry at all. When Woolbur's Maa and Paa insist he be like the other sheep, Woolbur has his own creative way to make that happen!

Objectives

1. To develop an appreciation for individuality among the students we meet in school.
2. To develop an appreciation for the special talents of others.
3. To develop written expressive skills.
4. To encourage group interaction and cooperative learning.

Before viewing the video

Tell the children that when they view this video, they will meet the author of Woolbur, Leslie Helakoski. Tell them that in this story they will meet a very independent sheep named Woolbur who does not do what the other sheep always do. Ask the children if they like being different from their friends some of the time. How do they like to be different? Do they like to be the same as the other children? Tell them to think about Woolbur's parents and how they might be the same or different from their parents.

Questions to ask after viewing the video

1. Woolbur does not want to stand still with the sheep. What does he do instead?
2. What kind of trouble does Woolbur have in the shearing barn? What do Maa and Paa think? What does Grandpaa think?
3. In which ways does Woolbur continue to look different from the other sheep?
4. How do you think you are supposed to spin wool on the wheel? How does Woolbur think it should be done?
5. Woolbur takes a shortcut to dyeing the yarn. Tell us what he does.
6. How does Woolbur do his weaving? Is this a good idea?
7. When Maa and Paa give Woolbur instructions about being like the rest of the herd, what does Woolbur do to make them alike?
8. Think about Woolbur's Grandpaa. How is he like or different from your Grandpa?

Activities

1. Divide the class into small groups. Have them develop lists of similarities and differences they share.
2. Encourage a class discussion of these differences to develop confidence in speaking skills.
3. Create a bulletin board titled "This is What Makes Me Special." Have each child write a few sentences about a special talent or interest that they have that the others do not know. Post pictures of the children or illustrations of these special talents on your bulletin board.
4. Have the children write a story about the thing they like best about Woolbur. Have them draw their own illustrations for this story. For younger children, have them each dictate a sentence that the teacher can write for them.