

# SCAREDY SQUIRREL MAKES A FRIEND

## SCAREDY SQUIRREL MAKES A FRIEND

by Mélanie Watt

Ages: 4 – 8; Grades PreK - 3

Themes: Risk Taking, Confidence, Friendship, Problem Solving, Humor

Running Time:

### SUMMARY

Scaredy Squirrel is back, as fearful as ever of all things new and dangerous...but he does want a friend! Scaredy Squirrel has a bite-proof plan to find the perfect friend. The plan includes a lemon, air freshener, and a chew toy, among other things. When Scaredy Squirrel spots his perfect friend swimming in a nearby fountain, he launches into action. But he isn't prepared for the eager four-legged beast that he encounters soon after releasing the chew toy. After playing dead for a few hours, Scaredy Squirrel realizes that perhaps all animals with teeth don't want to bite him. Will Scaredy Squirrel find the perfect friend?

### OBJECTIVES

- Students will determine qualities that make a good friend.
- Students will make text-to-self connections.
- Students will analyze the changes in Scaredy Squirrel from the beginning of the movie to the end of the movie.
- Students will determine the lesson that Scaredy Squirrel learns in the movie.
- Students will compare and contrast *Scaredy Squirrel Makes a Friend with Scaredy Squirrel*.

### BEFORE VIEWING ACTIVITIES

Discuss friendship with students. Guiding questions:

- What are the qualities of a good friend?
- How do you make friends?
- How do you decide whom you want to be friends with?
- Have you ever done anything special to try to make friends with someone?
- How do you feel when you're with a great friend?

After students share their answers, tell them that they're going to watch a movie about a squirrel that really wants a friend, but is

scared that the wrong kind of friend might bite him. Ask students if they've ever had the wrong idea about other people before they became friends with them. Encourage students to watch and listen for ways that Scaredy Squirrel solves his problem of wanting to make a friend.

Review text-to-self connections with students. Ask them to share with each other what they're scared of when they meet new people or try to make new friends. Guiding questions:

- How do you feel when you're with other kids that you don't know?
- What are you afraid of when you meet new people?
- How do you handle your fears? What do you do?

Encourage students to make connections with Scaredy Squirrel's fears and his plan for handling them. Push them to make their connections deeper by thinking about whether all of Scaredy Squirrel's fears are reasonable, and if any of their own fears are unfounded.

### AFTER VIEWING ACTIVITIES

Use a T-chart to compare and contrast how Scaredy Squirrel changed from the beginning of the book to the end of the book. Label one side of the T-chart "Scaredy Squirrel in the Beginning" and the other side "Scaredy Squirrel at the End."

Guiding questions:

- How can you describe Scaredy Squirrel at the beginning of the story? What are some adjectives that you can use?
- Do Scaredy Squirrel's fears change from the beginning to the end of the story? Why or why not?
- How does Scaredy Squirrel's life change?
- What are some adjectives you can use to describe Scaredy Squirrel at the end?

After the T-chart is complete, discuss with students how Scaredy Squirrel solved his problem of not having any friends.

- Did Scaredy Squirrel's plan for making a friend work? Why or why not?
- Did Scaredy Squirrel make friends with the perfect friend that he had seen in the beginning of the book?
- Who did Scaredy Squirrel become friends with? Why is this character a great friend for him?

Culminate the previous two discussions with students drawing and or writing a personal narrative about meeting a new friend. Teach or review the elements of a personal narrative, such as zooming in on a small moment, using experiences from one's own life, and developing characters through actions, thoughts, feelings, and dialogue. Use *Scaredy Squirrel Makes a Friend* as a mentor text for these lessons.

Discuss the value of generosity. Explain that generosity is the quality of giving and sharing with others.

Compare and contrast *Scaredy Squirrel Makes a Friend* with *Scaredy Squirrel*, also available from Weston Woods. Use a Venn diagram or 3-column chart to compare how the character of *Scaredy Squirrel* is similar and different in each movie. Questions to consider:

- How is Scaredy Squirrel the same/different in each story?
- What does Scaredy Squirrel learn in each story?
- What does Scaredy Squirrel do in each movie that is similar?
- What is different about *Scaredy Squirrel* in *Scaredy Squirrel Makes a Friend* as compared to *Scaredy Squirrel*?
- How would you expect Scaredy Squirrel to act in other stories?

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