

SPOON

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by Amy Krouse Rosenthal

Ages: 2-6; Grades: PreK-1

Themes: Self-Confidence, Acceptance, Feelings, Being Unique

Running Time: 7 minutes

SUMMARY

Spoon has always been happy being himself, and loves his large and supportive family. Lately, however, he has been comparing himself to some of his friends and feels like perhaps life as a spoon isn't so great after all. He can't cut things like Knife. He isn't as useful as Fork, or as exotic as Chopsticks. The more Spoon thinks about it, the more discouraged he becomes. What he doesn't know is what his friends think about him. Spoon confides in his mom, who helps him appreciate the unique and wonderful things that only he gets to do.

OBJECTIVES

- Students will discuss self-confidence and being unique.
- Students will make text-to-self connections.
- Students will create an "Only Me" box, showcasing their unique qualities.

BEFORE VIEWING ACTIVITIES

Brainstorm with students things about themselves that are unique. Guiding questions:

- Do you enjoy any sports or activities that most of your friends do not?
- Do you have any special talents? What are they?
- Does your family come from a different place from your friends? Where?
- Do you collect anything?
- What other special qualities or facts about yourself can you think of?

Have students share their responses to these questions orally. Encourage them to remember their answers and think about other things that make them unique. Tell students that they are going to watch a movie about an unusual character who loses sight of what makes him special.

Teach students about text-to-self connections. Tell students that excellent readers make connections between their books (texts) and experiences in their own lives. By making connections, students gain a deeper understanding of the texts. Teach students a hand movement that they can use when they are reading or listening to a story, and they make a text to self connection. (1) Put their hands together in the shape of a book. (2) Point their two index fingers towards their chests. (3) Clasp their hands together to show a connection. Encourage students to watch and listen for experiences in the movie that they can connect with. When they see or hear a connection, remind them to make the text-to-self connection hand signal.

AFTER VIEWING ACTIVITIES

Have students make text-to-self connections with the movie by filling in the cloze sentence: I felt like Spoon when _____. Underneath the sentence, students should illustrate an experience that they had when they felt like they would rather be someone else. Have students share their sentences and drawings and then ask them what happened next. Did someone help them feel better? What did they learn?

Have a spoon party. Invite students to bring in their favorite dish to eat with a spoon to share with the whole class. Also allow students to bring a special spoon from home to eat with. Set out the food like a buffet and give each child the opportunity to share what he/she brought and if they have a special spoon, what the significance of it is. Enjoy the food!

Have students make an "Only Me" box. Ask each of them to collect photographs, artifacts, testimony from parents/siblings/friends, and any other memorabilia that commemorates what is unique and special about them. Each student should bring in a shoebox or other medium-small box in which to display their artifacts. Provide students with glue, scissors, and any other materials necessary to attach their artifacts inside and outside the box. After students have designed and constructed their boxes, guide them in writing a short description of what it contains and why those items are important. If students are not writing yet, have them present their boxes orally to the class.

OTHER RELATED TITLES FROM WESTON WOODS:

Arnie the Doughnut, by Laurie Keller

Chrysanthemum, by Kevin Henkes

Crazy Hair Day, by Barney Saltzberg

Emily's First 100 Days of School, by Rosemary Wells

Happy Birthday, Moon, by Frank Asch

Shrinking Violet, by Cari Best, ill. by Giselle Potter

Spoon, by Amy Krouse Rosenthal, ill. by Scott Magoon

Timothy Goes to School, by Rosemary Wells

Voyage to the Bunny Planet, by Rosemary Wells

Wallace's Lists, by Barbara Bottner & Gerald Kruglik, ill. by Olof Landstrom

Will I Have a Friend? by Miriam Cohen, ill. by Lillian Hoban