

# MORRIS'S DISAPPEARING BAG

## MORRIS'S DISAPPEARING BAG

By Rosemary Wells (Dial)

Themes: Feeling Small/Sibling Rivalry

Grade Level: Pre-K-1

Running Time: 6 minutes, animated

## SUMMARY

MORRIS'S DISAPPEARING BAG takes place in Christmas morning, when a young child named Morris, his two older sisters, and his older brother open their Christmas presents. Morris's siblings receive gifts that include a chemistry set, a beauty set and a hockey set. Morris receives a stuffed bear.

As the day moves on, Morris becomes increasingly upset because everyone thinks he is too young to enjoy his siblings' toys. Eventually, Morris unwraps one last present under the tree and discovers a disappearing bag inside. Whatever Morris puts inside the bag disappears, and Morris soon discovers that he can enjoy his siblings' toys without being seen. He can even make his siblings disappear, so that he can play without being bothered! The end of the story finds Morris's brother and sisters pleading with Morris for a chance to use the disappearing bag, while a tired and satisfied Morris falls fast asleep.

## OBJECTIVES

- Children will investigate feelings associated with being very young.
- Children will learn about sibling relationships.
- Children will explore the Christmas holiday.

## BEFORE VIEWING ACTIVITIES

Share the book MORRIS'S DISAPPEARING BAG with children.

Discuss children's family members. Ask:

- How many brothers and sisters do you have?
- How old are they?
- What kinds of things do they do that you may do when you are older? (If children do not have older siblings, or have no siblings at all, encourage them to think about what they are looking forward to doing as older children.)
- How do you feel about having to be older to do these things?

Ask children to consider how it might feel to be invisible. Ask:

- If you could make yourself invisible, what would you do?
- Where would you go?
- Would it be fun to be invisible? Why? Why not?
- How could you be helpful to others if you were invisible?

## AFTER VIEWING ACTIVITIES

Bring a variety of brightly wrapped packages into the classroom. Place an object inside each one. Have children ask questions about the contents of each box. See if children can identify the objects inside the packages by listening to your answers to their questions. Hang an old sheet or blanket in the classroom to act as a curtain. Have children close their eyes as one child quietly goes behind the curtain. Then have children open their eyes and give them clues about the person behind the curtain. (You might describe the child's hair

color, identify the first letter of his/her name, describe something particularly wonderful about this person, etc.)

See if children can identify the child who "disappeared" behind the curtain from your clues.

Talk with children about the kinds of activities they enjoy with their siblings. Then ask:

- What happens when you are playing with your siblings and you don't agree on something?
- What helps you solve your problems with your siblings?
- How do you feel when you and your siblings are not getting along?
- How do you feel when you and your siblings are having fun together?
- What kinds of things do you share with your siblings?
- What things are just for you?
- What things do your siblings have that you wish you could have too?
- What do you like best about the Christmas holiday? Hanukkah holiday?

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