

THE ISLAND OF THE SKOG

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By Steven Kellogg (Dial)

Themes: Friendship/Prejudice

Grade Level : 1 - 3

Running Time: 16 minutes

SUMMARY

Fed up with the dangers imposed on them by city cats and dogs, a band of mice sails away in search of a new home where they will be free from persecution.

OBJECTIVES

- Children will appreciate the value of friendship.
- Children will understand the implications of making assumptions.
- Children will learn the importance of planning.

BEFORE VIEWING ACTIVITIES

Talk with children about friends and family members they may not have been comfortable with initially. Ask:

- What was it about the person that made you feel uncomfortable?
- What was the person like once you got to know him/her?
- What would you have missed if you never had the chance to get to know this person?

Explain to children that in *THE ISLAND OF THE SKOG*, some mice meet up with someone they are afraid of at first. As time goes on, the fear disappears once the mice get to know the stranger better., Explain what the word prejudice means

and how it is made up of two parts, “pre” and “judge.”

Share the book, *THE ISLAND OF THE SKOG*, with children. Then ask:

- Why did the mice decide to leave their home?
- What should they have done before sailing off on the boat?
- Do you think they should have prepared to attack the stranger on the island before they knew who it was?
- How do you think the mice will spend their days on the island?
- Do you think they will be happier here than at their other home? Why? Why not?

AFTER VIEWING ACTIVITIES

Talk with children about the mice’s lack of planning before they sail off to the island. Then have children plan for an idyllic island all their own. Talk about the kinds of things children think they might need to make island living pleasant. Make a list of these things. Then supply a large sheet of paper that children can use to draw an island. Let children draw pictures of things they listed that they would need on their island. When children have finished, have them describe their drawings. Then present hypothetical situations such as:

- Imagine your island is hit by a hurricane. How are you prepared to take care of yourselves and your friends?
- What if you run out of food on your island?
- What will you do if you, or others on your

island, get sick?

After discussing these things, stress to children the importance of planning and preparing in order to ensure a happy, pleasant experience.

Talk with children about the Skog. Ask:

- What kinds of things do you think a Skog likes to eat?
- Where do Skogs sleep?
- What do baby Skogs look like?
- Can Skogs swim?
- What kinds of things can Skogs do well?

After children have had time to discuss these questions, have them write their own stories about imaginary animals. Later, have children draw pictures to accompany their stories. After sharing the stories and illustrations, display them in the classroom.

Other videos about friendship and prejudice available from Weston Woods include:

• CHATO’S KITCHEN

by Gary Soto, ill. by Susan Guevara

• CROW BOY

by Taro Yashima

• FOURTEEN RATS & A RAT-CATCHER

by James Cressey, ill. by Tamasin Cole

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