

WILL I HAVE A FRIEND?

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Story by Miriam Cohen, pictures by Lillian Hoban

Grade Level: Pre-K to 1

Themes: School, friends

Running Time: 7 minutes

SUMMARY

Jim is nervous about his first day of school. Pa reassures him that he will find a friend. Jim is not so sure, especially when he finds himself in a noisy classroom amidst busy strangers. Finally, at nap time, Jim meets someone who is also looking for a friend. Viewers will get an intimate glimpse of this exciting and somewhat scary time in all children's lives. This realistic and timeless story will resonate for all children who have just or will soon enter school.

OBJECTIVES

- Students will make text-to-self connections with the video.
- Students will make pictures of their friends from school.

BEFORE VIEWING ACTIVITIES

Ask students to share stories about their first day of school. Guiding questions:

- How did you feel in the morning right before going to school for the first time?
- Did your mom or dad (or guardian/caretaker) say or do anything to help you feel better?
- What were you the most scared about?
- What were you the most excited about?
- What did you think about the other kids?
- What did you think about the teacher?

Have students draw pictures of their first days of school. Encourage them to remember and try to depict details by asking: what did they wear? How did they feel? How did they get to school?

AFTER VIEWING ACTIVITIES

Have students draw pictures of their first friends at school. Ask them questions to help them write a short story or caption explaining their pictures. Guiding questions:

- How did you meet your friend?
- What did you do with your friend the first time?
- What do you like to do with your friend now?

After students have completed their pictures and you have written their words onto them, invite them to give the picture to the friend that they drew about. Alternatively, make a class book entitled, "Our Friends," to chronicle the friendships in the class. Remember to be sensitive to any students who may not yet have a "special friend," and suggest that they can also draw a picture and describe a relationship they have outside the class.

Ask students what they would tell a younger brother, sister, or friend who was nervous to go to school. What advice would they give to him or her? Help the students write a letter to that child to help him or her feel better about attending school for the first time. Students who are beginning writers can try to write this letter on their own. Others may need the teacher to write for them.

Make a poster entitled, "My Favorite Thing About School." Have each child write a sentence or draw a picture that shows his or her favorite thing about school. Take a picture of each child to put next to her or his favorite thing. Display the poster in the entrance of the school or classroom.

Discuss with children how to help new students feel welcome at school. Guiding questions:

- How can you be friendly to new students who may be nervous?
- What is the first thing you would want to show a new student about your school?
- What kinds of rules will the student need to learn?

Other videos about going to school from Weston Woods are:

Chrysanthemum by Kevin Henkes

The Day Jimmy's Boa Ate the Wash by Trinka Hakes Noble, ill. by Steven Kellogg

Miss Nelson Has a Field Day by Harry Allard and James Marshall

Miss Nelson is Back by Harry Allard and James Marshall

Monty by James Stevenson

Owen by Kevin Henkes

Shrinking Violet by Cari Best, ill. by Giselle Potter

The Teacher from the Black Lagoon by Mike Thaler, ill. by Jared Lee