

WINGS: A TALE OF TWO CHICKENS

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By James Marshall (Viking-Penguin)

Themes: Friendship/Importance of Reading

Grade Level: K-4

Running Time: 9 minutes, animated

SUMMARY

WINGS: A TALE OF TWO CHICKENS is about two chickens who are very good friends but very different chickens! Harriet is a chicken with many interests, including reading. Winnie, on the other hand, is a chicken who is always looking to be entertained and complaining about boredom. One day, a sly fox asks Winnie to accompany him on a hot air balloon ride. Silly Winnie agrees and the adventure begins. While the fox tries several different ways to capture Winnie, Harriet pursues the fox in order to bring her friend back home, safe and sound.

The story ends with Harriet rescuing her friend from the fox and putting her to bed with a good book in which she sees a picture of a fox. It is only at this point in the story that silly Winnie realizes that she had come very close to being eaten by a fox!

OBJECTIVES

- Children will learn about the importance of reading.
- Children will explore the differences between people.
- Children will talk about friends.

BEFORE VIEWING ACTIVITIES

Share the book WINGS: A TALE OF TWO CHICKENS with children. Then ask:

- What makes this story funny? (answers: some of the words, the pictures, the ideas, the characters.)

Have children describe a special friend. Ask:

- How are you and your friend different from one another?
- How do you decide what you'll do when you are together?

Tell about one time you or your friend helped the other in a dangerous situation.

Visit your school library with children. Emphasize that you can learn almost anything you want to know by reading books. Have children share their favorite books with one another.

AFTER VIEWING ACTIVITIES

Discuss the kind of friendship that existed between Winnie and Harriet. Ask:

- How do you know that Winnie and Harriet cared for one another?
- What do you think Winnie would miss most if she didn't have Harriet for a friend?
- What would Harriet miss?
- What important things do real friends do to show they care for one another?

After discussing these questions, have children make a friendship ring to display in the classroom. Have children name different ingredients that contribute to friendship (sharing feelings, playing together, working together, etc.). Print these words on individual strips of paper. Then have children glue the strips of paper together to make a paper chain. Hang the chain along a classroom wall as a daily reminder of the joys of friendship.

Talk with children about the differences between Winnie and Harriet in the film. Then divide children into pairs. Have each pair of children describe how they are both different from, and similar to, one another.

Distribute crayons and paper that each pair of children can use to draw one another. Have each child describe his/her partner by describing the drawing to other members of the class. As children discuss their drawings, emphasize that we are all different from one another, special and unique in our own ways.

Talk about the music. Ask:

- How did it contribute to the suspense? To the silliness?

Celebrate National Library or Children's Book Week! Have the children talk about their favorite books, draw pictures about them, and write their own books.

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

Friendship

ANDY THE LION by James Daugherty

APT. 3 by Ezra Jack Keats

THE BEAST OF MONSIEUR RACINE by Tomi Ungerer

THE CATERPILLAR & THE POLLIWOG by Jack Kent

DANNY AND THE DINOSAUR by Syd Hoff

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, MOON by Frank Asch

THE HAPPY LION written by Louise Fatio & illustrated by Roger Duvoisin

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Reading

PETUNIA by Roger Duvoisin

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