

Interdisciplinary Ideas

LANGUAGE ARTS

1. Make a semantic map of the word friendship. Be sure to include some Heartwood attributes.
2. Read the poem "Like Me" by Emily Kingsley to younger children in another class. Talk with them about the meaning of the poem in their own lives. You can find this poem in the book, *Free to Be a Family*.

* Visit www.heartwoodethics.org and choose Teaching Heartwood, Culture Keys, for more on the history, culture, and geography of this book.

SOCIAL STUDIES

Research the Special Olympics. Create a list of topics from your research. With a partner, choose one of the topics, do further research and write a brief informational paper. Compile the partner papers into a class booklet with a cover, table of contents, and pictures or other relevant material.

ART

1. Paint a watercolor scene of a pond with a reflection of someone looking into the water.
2. With colored string or yarn, braid a friendship bracelet using Heartwood colors. Give it to a friend.

SCIENCE

1. As a class, make a list of questions you have about Down Syndrome. Research to find answers to your questions.* Develop a fact sheet to distribute.
2. Learn what pond life includes in addition to frogs. Write an informational article to be posted on a class bulletin board.
3. Design a poster charting the life cycle of a frog.

Be Good to Eddie Lee

Virginia Fleming
1993
New York: Philomel Books

RESPECT
USA
Realistic Fiction
Reading Time: 9 minutes

CONCEPTS

Respect
Trust
Friendship

SUMMARY

The amazing differences between human beings shrink to insignificance in this touching story of Christy and her neighbor with Down Syndrome, Eddie Lee. Encouraged by her mother, Christy spends time with Eddie Lee and learns a valuable lesson about the true meaning of respect and friendship. Artist Floyd Cooper's warm and affectionate drawings lend enchantment to this story of friendship.

OBJECTIVES

The student will be able to define and discuss respect, trust, and friendship as they apply to this story, and will be encouraged to examine personal feelings about people with disabilities.

After the Story

Be Good to Eddie Lee

DISCUSSION

1. As the story opens Christy frets about being bored and about being bothered by Eddie Lee. Why did her mother tell her to be good to Eddie Lee? What made Eddie Lee different?
2. Eddie Lee could not talk and learn the way other children do, and JimBud called him dumb. But Eddie Lee did several smart things in the story. What were they?
3. What did Eddie Lee mean when he put his hand over his heart and said, "It's what's here that counts"? Can you tell what a person is really like by looking? Why or why not?
4. What could Eddie Lee teach JimBud? What can you learn from people who are different? What are some of the ways we are different from each other?
5. Christy's feelings about Eddie Lee changed during the story. Talk about what you think the rest of their summer might be like. Will Christy continue to be as good to Eddie Lee as she was at the pond? Why or why not? What might they do together?
6. Christy and Eddie Lee respected each other. How is this shown in the story?
7. We show respect when we help and care for people. Think of someone you know who needs extra help. How might you show respect for that person? Share.

ACTIVITIES

1. Find North Carolina on the world map.*
2. Christy's respect for Eddie Lee grew as she got to know him. In groups of three or four, decide what character attributes elicit respect. Then talk about strategies for creating a respectful environment in your school. Make a list to present to the class.
3. With a partner, write definitions of one or more of the following words: acceptance, tolerance, inclusion, inspiration. Write sentences relating the words to the story or to school situations. Share with the class.

HOME CONNECTION

Retell the story of Eddie Lee. Find out which family members help other people who have special needs. Ask for permission to share their stories with your class.

JOURNAL

1. Write about your friendship with someone who is different from you.
2. Write a response to the story. Tell how respect and trust are related to friendship.
3. Think of a time you showed kindness to someone. Describe the circumstances and how you felt.

VOCABULARY

kingfisher
whopper
quiver

myriad
gnawed
distorted