Flora the Frog

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HONESTY

CONCEPTS

Honesty
Truthfulness

SUMMARY

Flora is disappointed when her teacher assigns her the part of a frog in a school play. She doesn't tell anyone how she feels, and she makes matters worse by throwing her frog costume up in a tree and lying to her mother about where it is. Honesty prevails as Flora eventually takes responsibility for her actions and reveals her feelings. Anna C. Leper's full-page watercolor illustrations bring this story to life.

OBJECTIVE

Children will become aware of honesty related to feelings. They will be encouraged to be truthful with family members in sharing problems.

Circle Time (in the Heartwood Circle)

Flora the Frog

PREVIEW

1. Tell children that Flora's class is performing a play about animals. Have children tell what animal they would like to be in such a play.

2. Show the cover of the book and ask children to predict what might happen in the story.

3. Together find HONESTY on the Heartwood attribute poster.

4. Show contents of the Prop Box, such as costumes, shopping bag, handbag, backpack, overalls, ball, blue cloth or mat, sparkles, box of tissues, and a copy of *Flora the Frog*.

READING

1. Read the story uninterrupted.

2. Read the story as a play. Have children take parts such as teacher, Flora, Mom, Aunt Jo, Marcia, Katie, James, John, and rabbits. Read as a narrator and cue children to say dialogue in their own words.

After the Story

DISCUSSION

Talk about Flora's problem. What does she do first to try to solve her problem? What else might she have done to solve this problem? (Reread the page where Flora tells a lie.) How does she feel when she tells a lie? How does she feel when she tells the truth? How do you feel when you are honest?

After the Story

ACTIVITIES

1. Together make a list of people you can talk to when you are upset, angry, or sad.

2. Play the circle game "I Choose." Have children go around the circle with truthful statements about things they like and dislike such as "I choose swinging but I don't choose sliding."

WRAP-UP

1. Show pictures of four basic emotions (happy, sad, angry, afraid).* Go around and ask children to complete short I-messages expressing the emotions. Begin with, "I feel happy when…" or "I feel angry when…"

2. In *My Heartwood Journal* have children draw pictures of a time they were honest or of Flora being honest. Have them dictate a sentence on each page, such as "I was honest when…" or "Flora was honest when…" Have children complete the sentences and record their responses.

EXTENSION

Children complete the Home Connection Page and teachers record their responses. Send these pages home to children's families.

Expressive Arts

DRAMA/LANGUAGE

1. Prop Box: Use items in the box for retelling and acting out the story or for small group creative play.

2. Mini-Manners Plays*: With finger puppets model honesty. For example:

   Puppet 1:   My teacher said we should have candy every day.
   Puppet 2:   Did she really say that?
   Puppet 1:   No, she didn't.
   Puppet 2:   It's better to be honest.
   Puppet 1:   O.K.

3. Teach children to sign animals such as "frog," "fox," "rabbit," and "squirrel."

ART

1. Together make Paper Frog Puppets and decorate "Froggy Cupcakes."*

2. Draw a pond on a large sheet of paper and post on a bulletin board. Have children draw and color frogs, lily pads, cattails, insects, fish, and reeds to create a pond mural.

3. Together make "sparkle vests" using large paper grocery bags. Cut holes for head and arms, and cut bags open down the front. Have children paint the bags and then glue sparkles on their "vests."

MUSIC/MOVEMENT

1. Read and sing "Five Green and Speckled Frogs" by Priscilla Burris.

2. Sing the lyrics* or listen to the song "It's Not Easy Being Green" by Joe Rapso.

3. Play Leapfrog.

4. Listen to *Globalullabies* by Freyda during rest time.

*Visit www.heartwoodethics.org and choose Resources, Pre-K/K for additional vignettes, downloadables, and other activities.