

Classroom Connections & Additional Activities

1. Brainstorm how much a bike costs. Determine a realistic cost. Discuss the impact of Pedrito losing the money. Make a list of ways you might earn the money for a bike. **MATH**
2. Learn about balance. Make or visit a see-saw. Stand on one foot for as long as possible. Talk about how bike riders stay upright. **SCI**
3. Sometimes we say things that aren't completely true, such as "It's mine," when it isn't. Talk about ownership. For example, if you use school blocks to build a tower, whose is it? If you find a quarter, whose is it? **LA** **SS**
4. What does honesty look like? Brainstorm a variety of scenes that involve honesty and put descriptions of them on slips of paper. Take turns drawing a scene out of a hat to act out. Examples: A student finds a dollar bill on the floor of the school bus. What will he do? A student breaks another student's toy. What words could she say that show honesty and respect? **SS**

Pedrito's Day

Luis Garay
1997
New York: Orchard Books

HONESTY
Latin America
Reading Time: 6 minutes

CONCEPTS

Honesty
Courage

SUMMARY

In this story we meet Pedrito, a Latin American shoe-shine boy. Pedrito bravely chooses honesty and restitution when he pays back lost money, even though it jeopardizes his hopes for a new bicycle. Author/illustrator Luis Garay evokes the feeling of the story through an emotional connection of text and pictures.

OBJECTIVE

The student will be able to define and discuss honesty and courage as they apply to this story. The student will be able to identify times when he or she had the courage to tell the truth.

After the Story

Pedrito's Day

DISCUSSION

1. Why was Pedrito saving his money? How many of you have a bicycle or hope to get one soon? How might you get your bike? Why was having a bicycle so important to Pedrito and his family?
2. What important job did Pedrito's aunt ask him to do? What happened? How did he make it right?
3. Pedrito thought of a lot of excuses for losing the money. Why did he choose to tell the truth? Think of some words that tell what kind of a person Pedrito was. Why did Pedrito's mother think Pedrito was now old enough to save for a bicycle?
4. Do you think it was hard for Pedrito to tell the truth? Think of a time when it was hard for you to tell the truth. Would anyone like to share your experience? Sometimes it takes courage to tell the truth.

ACTIVITIES

1. Ask children to think of situations when they might find it hard to be honest (Mother asks, "Who spilled the milk?" Dad asks, "Whose turn is it to choose the TV program?"). Role play the situation.
2. Make a list of words that tell what kind of person Pedrito was (use discussion question #3.) Ask children to name a person they know who also has these traits.
3. As a class or in small groups discuss answers to the following questions.
What would have happened if:
 1. Pedrito had told Tia Paula that a robber had taken the money?
 2. Pedrito said a bird swooped down and grabbed the money?
 3. Pedrito ran far away?

Help children see how lies tend to make situations more complicated.

WRAP-UP

In My Heartwood Journal draw a picture of a time when you should be honest.

EXTENSION

1. Ask someone at home to talk about a time when it was difficult to be honest, but he/she was anyway.
2. Send home the Heartwood Family Newsletter on Honesty.

VOCABULARY

abuela
stallion
tortillas
tamales

tia
chiquito