



The Sneetches



Lesson title: The Sneetches

Subject:

ELA

Topic:

anti-bullying

Grade level:

K-5 (see adaptations per grade level below)

Duration:

40 minutes

Lesson summary:

Students will read/watch the story of The Sneetches by Dr. Seuss. Students will think about prejudice and bullying. Students will learn that differences are not a bad thing and that no one should have to change to please others.

Standards:

- CC.1.1.K.C Demonstrate understanding of spoken words, syllables, and sounds (phonemes).
- CC.1.2.3.A Determine the main idea of a text; recount the key details and explain how they support the main idea.
- CC.1.3.3.A Determine the central message, lesson, or moral in literary text; explain how it is conveyed in text.
- CC.1.3.2.B Ask and answer questions such as who, what, where, when, why, and how to demonstrate understanding of key details in a text.
- CC.1.3.2.C Describe how characters in a story respond to major events and challenges.
- CC 15.2.2.O. With prompting and support, ask and answer questions relating to differences among individuals.
- CC 15.2.5.O. Explain the importance of accepting diverse populations.

Objectives:

- SWBAT appreciate differences among people by seeing differences as strengths
- SWBAT engage in conflict resolution
- SWBAT explain the importance of empathy and understanding diverse populations



Essential Questions:

- EQ1: What are key vocabulary and how can I use them?
- EQ2: Why is it important to understand diverse populations?
- EQ3: What is empathy?
- EQ4: How can I apply conflict resolution strategies in my life?

Vocabulary:

- Social Justice
- Ableism
- Racism
- Difference
- Anti-Bullying
- Privilege
- Marginalization
- Prejudice
- Acceptance
- Dr. Seuss Day

Materials:

- A Copy of “The Sneetches” by Dr. Seuss
OR
- [This video](#), along with technology to show the video

Lesson Procedure:

1. Before watching the video or reading the story, begin with a discussion to orient your students to the subject matter. It may be appropriate to remind your students of past lessons you may have taught about prejudice. Please adapt these pre-reading questions however you see fit for your classroom level.

Pre-Reading Questions (K-2)

- ❖ Why are people different? Is being different bad?
- ❖ Sometimes we are mean to people who are different from us. Is that the right thing to do? How should we treat people who are different from us?
- ❖ What does it mean to bully someone?

Pre-Reading Questions (3-5)

- ❖ In the past, we learned about how people who have darker skin color are sometimes treated meanly by people who have lighter skin color. Do you remember what that was called?
 - Vocabulary check: Race, Prejudice, Racism



- ❖ In the past, we learned about how people who have disabilities are sometimes treated meanly by people who don't have disabilities. Do you remember what that was called?
 - Vocabulary check: Disability, Prejudice, Ableism
- 2. Next, introduce the video/book. Say "Today, we are going to be hearing a story about prejudice/bullying. This story was written by Dr. Seuss. Let's see what we can learn from this story!"
- 3. Play the following video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VohyMXB4FL0> OR read the story "The Sneetches" by Dr. Seuss.
- 4. After viewing/reading, re-gather the students for discussion. You can conduct the post-reading questions via small groups, whole classroom, turn and talk, or a combination of methods.

Post-Reading Questions (K-2)

- ❖ Why did some Sneetches think they were better than other Sneetches?
- ❖ How did the Star-Bellied Sneetches treat the other Sneetches who didn't have stars?
- ❖ Why did the Sneetches want to change themselves?
- ❖ What did the Sneetches learn in the end?
- ❖ Is being different bad? Should we be mean to people who are different from us?
- ❖ Should we ever change ourselves to make other people like us?

Post-Reading Questions (3-5)

- ❖ Can you think of a time that you thought you were better than someone else? Why did you think that?
- ❖ Can you think of a time you wanted to change yourself to fit in?
- ❖ Do the Sneetches remind you of any other lesson that we learned about?
 - Possible examples: Learning about racism/slavery or other examples of prejudice, Lessons about bullying
- ❖ Does changing ourselves or others end prejudice/bullying? If making everyone the same doesn't end prejudice, what can we do to make everyone more equal?
 - Prompt: Sylvester McMonkey McBrean's machine didn't make prejudice go away. The only way things got better is when the Sneetches realized that their differences didn't make anyone better or less than each other. They learned to appreciate their differences and treat each other fairly.
 - Prompt the students for ideas of what they can do in their own lives to help support equality



Evaluation:

Ask your students this question related to this lesson to gauge how much they learned. **Did this lesson help you understand that being different is OK?**

Thank you for bringing the conversation about disability into your classroom.

Help us evaluate this lesson plan by visiting [our evaluation page to assess this lesson](#). You will find an evaluation both for you and your students to complete there.

