

The SEL Interactive Read Aloud Collection

Tulare County Office of Education

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Charlotte the Scientist is Squished by Camille Andros

Self-Awareness (understanding personal needs, emotions, and aspirations)

Self-Management (problem-solving, persistence, and handling challenges)

Social Awareness (recognizing the perspectives of others, understanding group dynamics)

Relationship Skills (communicating needs, working with others, building friendships)

Responsible Decision-Making (using critical thinking to find solutions)

Background

Charlotte the Scientist is Squished is a fun and engaging story about a young rabbit who dreams of being a scientist. However, Charlotte has one big problem—she doesn't have enough space to work! With a scientific approach, she experiments to find a solution, ultimately realizing that collaboration and teamwork are just as important as independence. The story emphasizes problem-solving, perseverance, and balancing personal needs with relationships.

Before You Read

Look at the cover—what do you notice about Charlotte? What do you think she is trying to do?

What do scientists do? What skills do they need?

Have you ever felt like you didn't have enough space or needed time alone? How did you handle it?

Why do you think working with others can sometimes be challenging?

What are some ways we can solve problems when we feel frustrated?

While You Read

Guiding Questions

(Self-Awareness) What does Charlotte love to do? How do her interests make her unique?

(Self-Management) Why does Charlotte feel “squished”? What does this tell us about her needs?

(Responsible Decision-Making) What does Charlotte try to do to fix her problem? How does she use the scientific method?

(Social Awareness) How do Charlotte's family members react when she tries to

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	<p>find space? Do they understand how she feels?</p> <p>(Self-Management) Charlotte tries different solutions that don't work. Have you ever had to keep trying different ideas before finding the right one?</p> <p>(Relationship Skills) What happens when Charlotte moves to space? How does she feel when she is finally alone?</p> <p>(Self-Awareness & Social Awareness) Why does Charlotte start feeling lonely, even though she got what she wanted?</p> <p>(Responsible Decision-Making) What does Charlotte learn about balancing personal space and relationships?</p> <p>(Relationship Skills) How does Charlotte's final solution work better than her first one?</p> <p>(Self-Management & Responsible Decision-Making) What lesson can we take from Charlotte's experience? How can we use it when working with others?</p>
After Reading	<p>K-2 Activity: "My Problem-Solving Lab" Experiment</p> <p>Objective: Students will practice creative problem-solving like Charlotte by designing solutions to everyday challenges.</p> <p>Activity Steps:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Discussion: Talk about times when students have had a problem and needed a creative solution.2. Experimenting: Give students a simple challenge (e.g., "How can you carry three books at once without dropping them?") and let them brainstorm different ways to solve it.3. Drawing & Sharing: Students draw their solution and explain how they came up with it.4. Reflection: Ask, "How does trying different ideas help us solve problems?" <p>3-5 Activity: "Balancing Personal Space & Teamwork"</p> <p>Journal Reflection</p> <p>Objective: Students will reflect on the importance of both independence and collaboration.</p> <p>Activity Steps:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Discussion: Ask, "Why do we sometimes need space? Why do we also need to work with others?"

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	<ol style="list-style-type: none">2. Writing Prompt: "Write about a time when you wanted to be alone but also realized you needed others. How did you handle the situation? What did you learn?"3. Partner Discussion: Students share their experiences with a partner and discuss strategies for balancing personal space and teamwork.4. Class Commitment: Create a classroom agreement on respecting each other's space while working as a team.
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