

The SEL Interactive Read Aloud Lesson Plan Collection

Tulare County Office of Education

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Chicken in Space by Adam Lehrhaupt

SEL Competencies:

Self-Awareness: Understanding and reflecting on one's own emotions, strengths, and weaknesses.

Self-Management: Managing emotions and behaviors, setting and working towards goals.

Social Awareness: Understanding and empathizing with others' perspectives.

Relationship Skills: Building healthy relationships through effective communication and collaboration.

Responsible Decision-Making: Making ethical, constructive choices about personal behavior and social interactions.

Background

Chicken in Space by Adam Lehrhaupt is a delightful and humorous picture book that follows a chicken named Henrietta, who dreams of being an astronaut. Despite the doubts and challenges she faces from her friends, Henrietta embarks on an adventurous mission to space, determined to prove that she can accomplish anything. The story emphasizes perseverance, creativity, and self-belief, making it an excellent resource to teach social-emotional learning (SEL) competencies to young students.

Before You Read

What does it mean to be an astronaut?

(This question will help students think about space exploration and its challenges, setting the stage for Henrietta's journey.)

Can anyone be an astronaut, or is it something only certain people can do?

(This question prompts students to think about self-belief and the idea of overcoming obstacles.)

What kinds of things do you think you need to become an astronaut?

(A question to spark curiosity about challenges and skills needed to achieve a goal.)

Have you ever wanted to do something big or adventurous? What was it?

(This connects the students' personal experiences to Henrietta's dream, fostering empathy and understanding.)

What happens when we face challenges in trying to reach our goals?

(This prepares students to consider how Henrietta will handle obstacles and encourages them to think about perseverance.)

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While You Read Guiding Questions	<p>What do you think Henrietta is feeling when she decides she wants to go to space? (SEL Competency: Self-Awareness – Understanding Henrietta’s emotions as she sets a goal.)</p> <p>How does Henrietta react when her friends doubt her? How would you feel if that happened to you? (SEL Competency: Self-Management – Recognizing emotions when facing challenges and doubts.)</p> <p>What do you think it means to "never give up," like Henrietta says? Why is that important? (SEL Competency: Self-Management – Encouraging perseverance and setting goals despite setbacks.)</p> <p>How does Henrietta work with others to make her dream happen? (SEL Competency: Relationship Skills – Working collaboratively and communicating with others.)</p> <p>How do Henrietta’s friends feel when they see her trying to reach her goal? How does this change their view of her? (SEL Competency: Social Awareness – Understanding and empathizing with others’ perspectives.)</p> <p>What choices does Henrietta make to solve the problem of going to space? Can you think of a time when you had to come up with a creative solution? (SEL Competency: Responsible Decision-Making – Using creativity and critical thinking to solve problems.)</p> <p>What do you think Henrietta learned after trying so hard to reach her goal? (SEL Competency: Self-Awareness – Reflecting on learning and personal growth.)</p>

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	<p>How do you think Henrietta felt when she finally made it to space? Why? (SEL Competency: Self-Management – Reflecting on positive outcomes and emotions after working towards a goal.)</p> <p>Do you think Henrietta’s friends were proud of her in the end? Why? (SEL Competency: Social Awareness – Empathizing with the friends’ feelings and understanding the value of supporting others.)</p> <p>What lesson can we learn from Henrietta’s story about chasing our dreams? (SEL Competency: Responsible Decision-Making – Drawing conclusions about perseverance, creativity, and pursuing goals.)</p>
After Reading	<p>Activity: "My Dream Adventure" Poster</p> <p>Objective: To encourage students to reflect on their own dreams and set goals while reinforcing the importance of perseverance and creativity, just like Henrietta.</p> <p>Materials:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Large paper or poster board• Markers, crayons, stickers, etc.• Scissors, glue <p>Instructions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Have students think about something big or adventurous they would like to do (it doesn’t have to be space-related).2. Ask them to draw a picture of themselves in their dream adventure, just like Henrietta in space. It could be anything, like becoming an artist, helping animals, or exploring the ocean.3. After drawing their adventure, students should write or dictate a short sentence about what they would need to do to make their dream come true. Encourage them to think about possible challenges and how they could overcome them.4. Students will share their posters with the class, explaining their dream adventure and the steps they will take to make it happen.5. Hang the posters around the classroom to inspire others to pursue their dreams! <p>Reflection: After the activity, hold a brief circle discussion where students can talk about how they feel about their dreams and what they learned from Henrietta’s story about perseverance and believing in themselves. This reinforces the SEL competencies of Self-Awareness and Self-Management as students reflect on their goals and the steps required to achieve them.</p>

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