

The SEL Interactive Read Aloud Collection

Tulare County Office of Education

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Horrible Bear by Amy Dyckman

SEL Competencies

Self-Awareness – The girl and the bear recognize their emotions and reactions.

Self-Management – Both characters learn to manage their frustration and anger.

Social Awareness – The girl realizes that the bear's actions were not intentional.

Relationship Skills – The characters repair their conflict and find a way to make amends.

Responsible Decision-Making – Both the girl and the bear reflect on their actions and choose to respond differently.

Background

Horrible Bear! is a humorous and engaging story about misunderstandings, emotions, and forgiveness. The story follows a little girl whose kite accidentally lands in a sleeping bear's cave. When the bear unknowingly rolls over and breaks it, the girl angrily declares him a "HORRIBLE BEAR!" and storms off. Meanwhile, the bear, confused by the accusation, decides to be horrible on purpose. However, when the girl realizes she has made a mistake, she apologizes, leading to a resolution where they learn about patience, empathy, and making amends.

This story is excellent for discussing emotions, misunderstandings, and conflict resolution with young students.

Before You Read

Look at the cover. What do you think the bear did to be called "Horrible" by the girl?

Have you ever been upset with someone because of a mistake? How did you react?

Why is it important to think about both sides of a situation before getting mad?

What do you do when you feel really angry? How do you calm down?

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<p>While You Read</p> <p>Guiding Questions</p>	<p>(Self-Awareness - When the girl's kite lands in the bear's cave) How do you think the girl feels when her kite breaks? Have you ever felt this way?</p> <p>(Social Awareness - When the bear accidentally breaks the kite) Did the bear break the kite on purpose? How do we know?</p> <p>(Self-Management - When the girl gets really mad and yells 'HORRIBLE BEAR!') How do you think the girl could have reacted differently?</p> <p>(Self-Awareness - When the bear hears the girl yelling and gets mad too) How do you think the bear feels when he hears her yelling? Why does he want to act horrible now?</p> <p>(Responsible Decision-Making - When the bear plans to be 'horrible' on purpose) Do you think being horrible back to the girl is a good choice? What could the bear do instead?</p> <p>(Social Awareness - When the girl storms home and knocks over her stuffed animals) What does this tell us about how the girl is feeling? Do you think she is still thinking about the bear?</p> <p>(Self-Management - When the girl realizes she made a mistake) Why do you think the girl suddenly stops being mad?</p> <p>(Relationship Skills - When the girl apologizes to the bear) How does saying sorry help fix the situation?</p> <p>(Responsible Decision-Making - When the bear accepts the girl's apology instead of staying mad) What do you think would have happened if the bear stayed mad?</p> <p>(Social Awareness - At the end, when they come up with a new way to play together) What do the girl and the bear learn from this story? How do they show kindness to each other?</p>

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After Reading	<p>"Fixing a Mistake" Reflection & Role-Play</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Class Discussion: Talk about a time when students felt really mad. How did they handle it? What could they do differently next time?2. Role-Playing Scenarios:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Give students different conflict situations (e.g., a friend accidentally knocking over their blocks, a sibling taking their toy).○ Have them act out how to react calmly, express feelings, and resolve the issue respectfully.3. Reflection Writing or Drawing:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Students can write about a time they made a mistake and how they fixed it.○ Younger students can draw a picture of a time they apologized or forgave someone.