

The SEL Interactive Read Aloud Collection

Tulare County Office of Education

Tim A. Hire, County Superintendent of Schools

Nerdy Bird by Aaron Reynolds

SEL Competencies:

Social Awareness: Understanding and empathizing with others' feelings and perspectives.

Relationship Skills: Developing positive relationships through communication, respect, and support.

Background

In *Nerdy Birdy* by Aaron Reynolds, the story follows a bird who feels out of place because he doesn't fit in with the other birds. Nerdy Birdy enjoys activities like reading and playing video games, but the other birds don't share his interests. As he struggles to make friends, he meets another bird who is just as "nerdy" as he is, and they form a unique and meaningful friendship. Through their connection, students will explore themes of empathy, kindness, and acceptance, learning the value of embracing differences and supporting one another. This book is an excellent resource for discussing individuality, building relationships, and fostering inclusivity in the classroom.

Before You Read

Look at the cover and title: What do you predict this book will be about?

Have you ever felt different from others because of your interests? How did that feel?

What qualities do you think make someone a good friend?

While You Read

Self-Awareness Why does Nerdy Birdy feel out of place with the other birds?

Social Awareness What emotions might he be experiencing when he watches the others?

Relationship Skills How does Nerdy Birdy meet the other "nerdy" bird, and what makes their connection special?

Social Awareness Compare the relationships Nerdy Birdy has before and after meeting his new friend. How do these interactions differ?

Relationship Skills What actions do Nerdy Birdy and his friend take to show

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	<p>support and kindness? Why are these important in a friendship?</p> <p>Responsible Decision-Making What lesson does Nerdy Birdy learn about being true to himself and finding friends? How can we apply this lesson in our own lives?</p>
After Reading	<p>Friendship Role Playing</p> <p>Objective: Students will practice empathy and develop social skills by role-playing different friendship scenarios</p> <p>Activity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Create different friendship scenarios based on the book (e.g., "someone feels left out," "two friends share a hobby," "making a new friend").• Have students role-play these scenarios in pairs or small groups, taking turns acting as the "nerdy" bird and the other characters.• After each role-play, discuss what the characters did to show kindness and how they can make others feel accepted.