



Jamaica's Find

by Juanita Havill

(a good story to do at the beginning of a new year, a new class, or welcoming new students)

Things to get ready:

For Activity One

1. Have each child bring in a stuffed animal or have enough stuffed animals in the classroom so that each child can have one to hold.
2. Bring in a trash bag that the children will not be able to see through.

For Activity Two

1. Paper, crayons, markers or colored pencils

Getting the children ready to listen:

1. Have the students sit in a circle. Welcome the children and tell them that you want everyone to learn each other's name.
2. Tell them you're going to teach them a rhyme called *A Friend of Mine* to help them learning each others names.
3. Say the rhyme using the name of the child sitting on the left of you.
4. Now it's time for each child to have a turn. Continue around the circle until each child has had a chance to do the rhyme.

A Friend of Mine

Nicole is a friend of mine.

Yes, indeed I like her (or him) fine!

(Let each of your children say the rhyme, substituting a friend's name for Nicole.)

- **Read-Aloud Guide**

BEFORE you read the book:

1. Ask the children if they have ever found something that wasn't theirs, but that they really wanted to keep.
2. Show the cover of the book. Tell them this little girl's name is Jamaica. Read the title. Say, "Can you tell from the cover something she found?"
(a stuffed dog)
3. "What do you think Jamaica will do with it?"
(keep it, look for who it belongs to etc.)
4. Say, "Let's listen and find out what happens to Jamaica."

DURING reading:

1. After you read page 12, ask the students why Jamaica brought the red cap to the lost and found but not the stuffed dog.
2. After page 21 ask the children what they think Jamaica is thinking about.
3. Before you read page 29, ask the children why they think Kristin is looking under the slide.

AFTER reading:

1. Ask the students how they think Jamaica feels at the end of the book. Why would she feel this way?
2. How does Kristin feel at the end of the book? Why?
3. Talk about a time when they did the right thing. How did that feel?

Extension Activity

Activity 1

Teach the children the following rhyme:

One day out walking down the street
Some funny animals I did meet
One made a sound just like this
(child makes an animal sound)
So I took it home and gave it a kiss
(child kisses the animal)

For younger children, have the class sit in a circle and put all the animals in the center. Let one child at a time walk around the circle as the rest of the class recites the verse. The child will choose his own animal or any one the teacher provided. The child returns to the circle and another child is called. Repeat until each child has an animal.

For older children, have a child place one of the animals in the trash bag. Do this in a place that can not be seen by the others. Have the child give hints about his animal while the other children feel the animal in the bag and try to guess what animal is in there.

Activity 2

Talk with the children about making new friends. Have they made one in class yet? Do they remember meeting a friend where they live? How did they meet the friend?

Tell them to think back to the story and remember how Jamaica met her new friend at the end of the book.

Have students draw a picture of themselves with a friend. On the picture write the names of the student and his/her friend. Let the student write his/her name if they are able.

Related Books

Two Girls Can!

by Keiko Narahashi

Rainbow Fish

by Marcus Pfister

Wanted: Best Friend

by A.M. Monson