

Harry Hugger and Field Trip Friday Discussion Guide

*What happens when Harry and his friends meet some animals
who are definitely different?*

Dedicated to

*the belief that there are no strangers in the world.
There are only friends we have not gotten to know, yet.*

Inspired by

Taylor, Grayson and Paula

Fun Facts: Taylor is the author's daughter. Grayson is young man who always wears a bow tie to school. Paula is a hugger who hugs everyone.

Editors

Madi Foley and Mark Ramsay

Fun Facts: The editors are friends of the author and edit the books for free.

Associate Editors

*Annabelle, Simon, Harrison and Veronica
Maxton, Corbin and Logan*

Fun Facts: The Associate Editors are kids who get to read the stories as they are written and provide ideas to the author on how to make the story better.

Michael Marshall, Author

Jasper, Indiana

www.HarryHugger.com

"Hugging is the best way, for those you love, to feel what's in your heart."

1. Harry woke up early. He could not sleep because it was Field Trip Friday.
2. This was Harry's favorite school day. He hurriedly followed his morning routine. He brushed his teeth, combed his hair, and ate a breakfast of fresh fruit.
3. Harry picked out an extra special bow tie. On a special day like today, everyone would be dapperly dressed.

Discussion Question: What is your morning routine? Do you have something you wear on special days?

4. His parents were now awake. Using his hugging superpower, he hugged his tiny merry Mom and his big daring Dad.

5. Harry hugged sister Harriet and helped her find her blue backpack.

Discussion Question: Who has brothers and/or sisters? What do they do to help you? What do you do to help them?

6. Harry rushed out to catch the bus. Since he had gotten up so early, it was a long, weird wait.
7. At school, Harry hugged his hug-friendly friends. Harry hugged his talkative teacher.
8. After listening to some announcements, the talkative teacher told them that today they would be going to Play Park.
9. As a special treat, they would be meeting another class from a school in a different district next to Play Park.

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10. Before long, the bus with Harry and his class arrived at Play Park. They were so excited that they were having trouble sitting in their separate seats.

Discussion Question: What do you do when you get excited? What do you do when you know your friends are excited?

11. As they got off the bus, Harry's class could see the class from the other school coming outside and heading toward Play Park.

12. Harry's classmates watched, becoming quiet when they realized the other class was not made up of happy hamsters.

13. They weren't hamsters. They were different - different colors, different clothes and different faces. They were definitely different.

Discussion Question: How do you feel when you meet people who are new or different from you?

14. Harry's classmates became quiet and began to draw closer together. The other class's talking suddenly stopped as well, and the quiet turned awkwardly awful.

Discussion Question: Do you think Harry's classmates feel mad, glad, sad or scared? What makes you say that?

15. Harry thought about what his merry Mom had always said: "Someone may look different on the outside, however, on the inside, everyone has the same daring dreams, frightening fears and high hopes."

Discussion Question: What do you think most people have in common? What do you think most people are afraid of?

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16. Then Harry thought about what his daring Dad told him: “Being brave is when you put your fear aside and do what you know is really right.”

Discussion Question: What advice do your parents give to you?

17. Harry hoped Mom and Dad were right. He adjusted his bow tie, remembered his superpower, put one foot in front of the other and slowly walked toward the curious class.

Discussion Question: Tell me about a time when you were scared. What did you do to overcome your fear?

18. He stopped a few feet from the strangers. He smiled and opened his arms. Everyone’s eyes were on him. He was all alone.

19. A long moment passed, and one brave bunny from the new class took a step forcefully forward.

Discussion Question: What do you think is going to happen next?

20. The brave bunny opened his arms. Harry and the brave bunny gave each other a huge hug.

21. Slowly, both classes moved toward each other. The brave bunny’s name was Barry. Barry introduced Harry to his best friend. Harry’s best friend joined Harry and Barry. Soon the classes were marvelously mingling.

Discussion Question: How does it feel to make a new friend?

22. The rest of the day was spent making new friends, learning new games and sharing stories.

23. Barry taught Harry’s classmates how to play bunny ball. When they were done playing, Barry gave Harry his cool carrotbat.

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24. Harry taught Barry and his friends how to play hamster hide-and-seek.

25. They ate lunch together and shared with each other new, fantastic foods.

Discussion Question: How are you the same as other people? How are you different from other people? What are the differences between how you live and how others live?

26. The day went by fast, and soon it was time to exchange heartfelt hugs and grinning goodbyes.

Discussion Question: How do you feel when a good day comes to an end and you must say, "Goodbye?"

27. When Harry got home, he shared the story with his family. Merry Mom and daring Dad were proud parents.

Discussion Question: If you were Harry, what would you have told them about the day?

28. At the end of the day, Harry and his family had a great group hug. Harry, Harriet, Mom and Dad wrapped their arms around each other and squeezed tightly. It was the best way to end fun Friday.

Discussion Question: How does your family like to end the day?

29. Lying in bed, Harry hugged himself. Harry had been brave and strong. His hugging superpower had made him a lot of new, fun friends, and his world was boldly better.

30. Tomorrow would be a super Saturday.

31. ---The Beginning---

Discussion Question: What can we learn from Harry's story?

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Additional Discussion Resources

The key to this discussion is the empathetic response. Don't make it about yourself. Don't say, "Things will get better" or, "You're young, you'll forget." Some empathetic response ideas are below.

Empathetic Statements That Show You Care: [Click Here](#)

Empathy is important because it helps us understand how others are feeling so we can respond appropriately to the situation. It is typically associated with social behavior, and there is lots of research showing that greater empathy leads to more helping behavior.

Free Psychological First Aid Resource: [Click Here](#)

Established by Congress in 2000, the National Child Traumatic Stress Network (NCTSN) is a unique collaboration of academic and community-based service centers whose mission is to raise the standard of care and increase access to services for traumatized children and their families across the United States. Combining knowledge of child development, expertise in the full range of child traumatic experiences, and attention to cultural perspectives, the NCTSN serves as a national resource for developing and disseminating evidence-based interventions, trauma-informed services, and public and professional education. The Five Phases of Psychological First Aid — Listen, Protect, Connect, Model, and Teach

Factoid: This book became available, for sale, on September 25, 2020. On this date in 1957, school desegregation came to Little Rock, AR. On that day nine teenagers became the first African Americans to attend the all-white Central High School in Arkansas, putting a national spotlight on racism. Former President Eisenhower sent federal troops to protect the students and ensure compliance with the Supreme Court's Brown v. Board of Education school desegregation decision.

Factoid: This book went on sale on October 25th, the third Monday of October. For more than a decade, educators have celebrated **National Multicultural Diversity Day (NMDD)** on the third Monday in October. Created by Cleora Scroggs, a fourth-grade teacher in Flint, MI, the day was adopted as a national event by the 1993 Representative Assembly to "increase awareness of the tremendous need to celebrate our diversity collectively."

You can get involved just by being creative. Start by sharing cultural information with your class about yourself. Introduce students to multicultural issues by inviting a local expert to talk about diversity. Sing songs that celebrate diversity. Ask students to bring in items or food representative of their ethnic heritage to share with classmates. Diversity means freedom and justice for all of us, not just some of us. [Click Here](#)

RELATED LINKS

Diversity Toolkit - An introduction to the multiple facets of diversity.
<http://www.nea.org/tools/diversity-toolkit-introduction.html>

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