



Alexander's Amazing Adventures

Classroom Discussion Guide

Peaceability

Part 1

- What were Alexander and his sister doing? (*fighting during breakfast*)
- What was the new danger in Inland? (*Inlanders had chosen a bad road to a good place*)
- What do you think that means?
- Who wins when two people fight?
- Can you think of a time when you've chosen to handle something difficult in a peaceful way?

Part 2

- What was Alexander's new quest? (*help the Inlanders find the good road*)
- What did Huckwin want to do? (*fight the Erodians*)
- How did Alexander feel about fighting the Erodians? (*he felt fighting wasn't the right choice*)
- How did this make Huckwin feel? (*he challenged Alexander to a fight*)
- Let's say your little brother and sister are fighting over a toy. Is there anything you can do?

Part 3

- Who was the lady Alexander met? (*the Peace Maker*)
- What did she ask Alexander? (*if he would like to buy a game*)
- Where was the lady from? (*Peace Mountain*)
- Where did Alexander need to go? (*the Hall of Power on Peace Mountain*)
- Can you think of anyone who's really good at peaceability? Who?
- How do you feel when you're around this person?
- What do you think makes them peaceful?

Part 4

- What game did Alexander find in the Hall of Power? (*chess*)
- How were Alexander and Huckwin working out their differences? (*moving on a giant chess board*)
- What happened when Huckwin counted to ten? (*he was a little less mad*)
- Let's say your brother is having a bad day. He's been mean and grumpy to everyone! When you ask to borrow his skateboard, he tells you you'd better keep your hands off that thing in a very mean voice. How can you respond in a peaceable way?
- Let's say everyone is asking your mom for things and the phone is ringing while your mom is trying to make dinner. It doesn't feel peaceful at all and your mom seems frustrated. Is there anything you can do?

Part 5

- What was the last command from the Peace Maker? (*knock each other down*)
- Do you think Alexander and Huckwin want to knock each other down? Why?
- How many people does it take to fight?
- Do we make a choice to fight?
- Why can it be hard to choose not to fight?

Part 6

- Why did Alexander and Huckwin not want to fight anymore? (*they tried to understand instead of argue*)
- What was the new word that Alexander wrote in his book? (*peaceability*)
- What were some of the skills Alexander learned to help him get along with people? (*count to 10, try to understand the other person*)
- What is peaceability?
- Is peaceability a choice?
- Can you think of a time when you've chosen to handle something difficult in a peaceful way?

Peaceability Activities and Discussion

Try these activities and discuss the value peaceability. Think about and discuss what makes a person peaceful.

Peaceability Game: Stillness Contest

See who can go the longest without speaking or without moving. This is a way to teach young children the feeling, as well as the skill, of being peaceful, quiet, and calm. Afterward talk about how it feels nice to be quiet and still sometimes. You can also do this while playing soft, pleasant music and talk about how silence and the right music can help us feel peaceful and nice.

Calming Methods

Talk about how everyone gets angry and frustrated sometimes but that we don't have to give in to those feelings. Discuss and determine a method for calming yourselves and practice this method throughout the month. One good method is to count to ten. Explain how counting to ten before we yell or get angry allows us to calm down. Set the example by letting your students see (and hear) you counting to ten. Another good method is to give yourself a "time out" when you're feeling angry and encourage all students to simply walk away when they're feeling angry or frustrated and come back when they've calmed themselves (talk about ways to calm ourselves – read a book, play with a favorite toy, etc.).