

How the Peacock Got Its Feathers

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Lesson Prompts



*Option to use Character Education pie chart

Engage & Prep before reading:

- Show students the “before” picture of Joel on the inner page. Display a few real peacock feathers and tell children that they will be reading a fictional story about why peacocks have colorful feathers.

Prior Learning Connection:

- Ask students if they ever experienced a change in their lives such as moving to a new home, going to a new school or having a new family member join their household or losing a pet. Ask them how the change made them feel.

While reading:

- Pause at appropriate times to ask open-ended questions.
For example:
 - Why do you think Courtney and Pratt play pranks on their neighbors?
 - How do you think Taylor felt when he was injured?
 - Why do you think Joel stopped to help Taylor?
 - What do you think the animals talked about at their forest meeting?
 - Why does Mama Bear appear angry for most of the story?
 - Why do you think the forest animals trust Quinn?
- Pause to facilitate questions or address topics for discussion.

After reading:

- Reflect on the story and lessons within it.
- Ask additional open-ended questions such as:
 - How do you think Courtney and Pratt felt by the end of the story?
 - How do you think Joel felt by the end of the story?
 - What do you think Mama Bear thought of Courtney and Pratt?
 - Do you think Courtney and Pratt's behavior will change? Why do you think so?
 - Do you think what happened to Joel was a good thing or a bad thing?
 - Do you think Joel's attitude/personality will change after his experience? Why do you think so?

(Future) Learning Connection*:

- Introduce or review vocabulary terms (as age-appropriate):
 - Apologize
 - Explore
 - Gaze
 - Glistened
 - Rickety
 - Lamented
 - Bully
 - Victim
 - Bystander
 - Perseverance
 - Transformation
 - Self-esteem
 - Self-confidence

- Ask follow-up questions:
 - What did you learn from the story?
 - What do you think you would do if you were faced with a situation like Taylor, Joel or Baby Bear?
 - How would you help someone like Taylor?
 - How would you help individuals like Courtney and Pratt?
 - What would you have done if you were aware that Courtney and Pratt's behavior was harming others?