



THE OTHER SIDE

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Reading and Activity Guide



BEFORE READING

- + Can you remember a time when you made a new friend? Were you friends right away, or did it take a few times before you really became friends? Did anything make it hard to become friends?
- + *The Friedrichs* also have a fun introduction to their book in the video!

DURING READING

- + Usually fences divide property, so that people know where one person's property ends and the other person's property begins. What does this fence divide? *The two girls; black people and white people.* How do the girls get around this division? *They sit ON the fence!* Do you notice how the binding of the book separates the girls as well?

AFTER READING

- + What made it hard for the girls to become friends? *The fence; the parents; the other friends.*
- + How did the girls' skin colors affect their friendship? In a way, it played a big part, but in another way, it wasn't a big deal at all. Can you explain that? *Their parents didn't allow them to play together because of their skin color. But Annie and Clover became good friends despite skin color.*
- + What makes a good friend? Is it because the other person looks like you? Or is it because they are kind, caring, etc.? What makes someone a bad friend? Is it their skin color? Or is it because they're selfish, mean, etc. So can we tell whether or not someone is or will be a good friend...based on their skin color? The shape of their eyes? What their hair looks like? No! Read 1 Samuel 16:7. People judge based on outward appearance; God looks at the heart. Close with a prayer asking God to help us to be willing to make new friends even with people who might seem very different from us. Ask God to help us judge people based on their heart and their actions and not their looks.

SPRINGBOARD ACTIVITIES:

Activity #1: Friendship Fences - Use popsicle sticks and glue to create a "fence". When the fences are dry, have the children use pencils or fine-tipped Sharpies to write kind, thoughtful notes on each other's fences. "I like being your friend because..." "You're a good friend because..." or write positive characteristics that describe the child.

Activity #2: Build Bridges, Not Fences - Sometimes, there are invisible fences that separate people from becoming friends. Spend an afternoon playing with someone you don't normally talk to. Adults, break your children up into mixed teams/groups of children who don't normally hang out together. Then, challenge each group to a **building challenge**! You might be surprised at how well you work together or how much fun you have together!

