



MOOKEY THE MONKEY GETS OVER BEING TEASED

By Heather Lonczak

Mookey is not a typical monkey because he is hairless. One day, while walking home, Mookey learns some valuable strategies from wise adults who help him to deal with classmates who tease him.



WITS Connection: Walk away, Talk it out, Seek help

Questions and Activities



PRE-READING QUESTIONS

1. Has anyone ever seen a monkey before? What did it look like?
2. Look at the cover of the book. What is different about Mookey?
3. Read the beginning of the book. Why do you think Mookey's classmates tease him?



POST-READING QUESTIONS

1. Does Mookey's family see Mookey as different or strange because he is hairless? Why do you think that is?
2. Have you ever been teased before? How did it feel?
3. Why do children tease each other? *Sometimes children are trying to be funny. Sometimes they are being mean. Sometimes they are uncomfortable when someone is different and they don't know how to include them.*
4. What does Mookey do to try and stop the teasing? *He tries to grow hair. He wears a monkey costume. He glues fur clippings on himself. He buys a hair growing potion.*
5. Mookey gets some good advice from his jungle adult friends about what to do the next time he gets teased at school. Do you remember what they tell him? *Use humour. Look for what is positive about being hairless. Take some deep breaths and walk away. Spend time with those who care about you.*
6. What was Mookey good at doing because of his exceptional appearance? *He was good at swimming.*
7. The next day when Mookey returns to school the author says that he felt like he was "wearing a suit of armour." What do you think is meant by that?



POST-READING ACTIVITIES

- Name all of the various animals mentioned or drawn in the book. *Monkey, mongoose, tiger, warthog, crocodile, polar bear, snake, baboon, porcupine, owl, hyena, giraffe, wolfhound, gazelle, zebra, antelope, orangutan, armadillo and elephant.*
- Have students brainstorm advice they would give Mookey and record their responses on the board.

- Have students draw their favourite animal. Students can then draw and fill in speech bubbles to describe the advice their favourite animal would offer Mookey.
- Have students draw a picture of their favourite coping technique from the story for dealing with being teased.
- Ask students to act out skits in small groups that demonstrate positive responses to being teased. *Assign groups of students randomly to prevent friendship cliques from acting out what they usually do. Possible examples of positive responses include:*
 - *Ignore the teasing (e.g. be yourself and don't worry about what others think, think positive, take a deep breath, walk away)*
 - *Talk it out (e.g. use humour, tell the person to stop)*
 - *Seek help (e.g. stick with your friends, ask an adult for help).*

Notes: