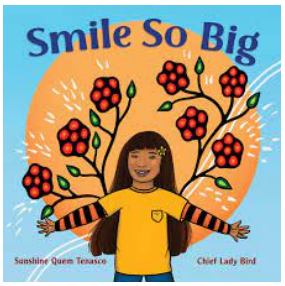
Smile So Big

Lesson Plan



Author: Sunshine Quem Tenasco

Illustrator: Chief Lady Bird

Grade: K-3

"The struggle, like life itself, should be joyful." - Miriam Miranda

Teacher Reflections:

Book Summary:

One day Challa comes home upset after being teased for her big smile. Her mom responds by gifting her a big, beautiful beaded mirror that has been passed down in her family for generations. Challa's mother said that the mirror revealed one's true self, but the person looking at their reflection had to first say aloud what they saw in the reflection. Challa discovers the magic of the mirrror and can't wait to share it with her friends that also sometimes feel bad about the way they look. She soon learns that the full magic of the mirror's response can only be unlocked by real declarations of self-love and acceptance.

Teacher's Notes:

Resources:

Smile So Big

Lesson Plan

Pre-Reading Questions:

1. What does self-acceptance mean to you?
2. How do you show yourself self-acceptance?
3. Do people get teased at school? How do you think teasing makes them feel about themselves?
4. What do you, or your friends, do to feel better after getting teased? Who do you talk to?
5. Look at the cover of this book - Tell us what you notice. Do you have any guesses abut what the book will be about?

Activities:

Activity 1: Class Self-Esteem Bucket (Teacher-Facilitated Group Discussion)
In a sharing circle, students will reflect on the things they love about themselves and their classmates with the goal of filling the bucket up with good feelings, love and appreciation.

While Reading

Questions:

1. Tell us about Challa's smile - What is special about it?
2. What is Challa teased about at school? What does Challa's mom do to make her feel better?
3. What special gift does Challa's mom give her? What does it do? What is the rule that everyone needed to follow?
4. What does Challa see when she looks in the mirror?
5. What happens when Challa shares what she sees in the mirror out loud?
6. Who does Challa share the gift of the mirror with? How does the magic of the mirror impact them?
7. Why does Challa's house not shake when she looks into the mirror?
8. How does Challa eventually unlock the magic of the mirror for herself? What is the feeling that does that?

Activities:

Activity 2: Smile So Big (Individual)

Students draw a self-portrait abut what they see in Challa's mirror.

Post-Reading

Questions:

1. What message is this book trying to teach us? You will be happy and proud when you love yourself despite what anyone else says about you.
2. What does the phrase "unique beauty comes from within" mean to you? Discuss with a partner and share back with the class.
3. How can we all practice more self-love? How can we encourage our friends to do this?

Activities:

Activity 3: Letter to Challa (Individual)

Students will write a letter or draw a picture for Challa. They can share somethings they find beautiful about her, inside and out. Or, they can share what they have learned from her story and how it made them feel.

Return to Activity 1: Class Self-Esteem Bucket (Teacher-Facilitated Group Discussion)