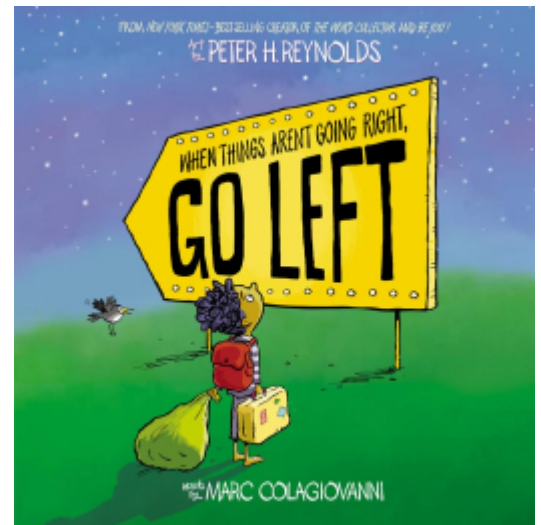


WITS

Lesson Plan

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WITS Connection: X Walk Away Ignore X Talk it out X Seek Help

Story Summary:

This is a story of making brave choices and finding strength within ourselves even in the most challenging of times. Through the boy in the story's choices, we learn a powerful lesson about perseverance and determination in the face of the things that challenge and scare us. We are reminded that when things don't go right, we can go left.

Teacher's Notes:

Resources:



Pre-Reading

Questions:

1. Can you describe a time that you were determined, or that you persevered when something was hard?
2. What do you do when things don't go right?
 - a. Who do you talk to?
 - b. How do you act?
 - c. What do you say?
3. Have you ever made a choice and then not been sure if it was the right one? What was the situation?

While Reading

As you read, pause each time the boy leaves something behind:

- Ask – How does he seem to feel? Does he seem to question his decision, or be sure of it?
- As a class, imagine another scenario where that feeling may need to be left behind: worry, doubt, fear



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Post-Reading

Questions:

1. How would you describe the boy in the book? (inner strength, brave, makes good choices) What does he do in the story to make you feel that way?
2. Are there any feelings that you sometimes want to leave behind? What would help you do that?
3. Which WITS strategies does the boy in the book use? Give examples.
4. Which WITS strategies could the boy have used to help when things weren't going right?

Post-Reading Activity:

1. Explain the analogy of the personal “toolkit” to students – something you can draw from when things are hard, it is filled with strategies that you know will usually help you feel better.
 - Share a few examples
2. Instruct students to draw their own personal toolkit and some of the things that fill it.
3. Discuss the content of the students’ toolkits.
4. Offer students the opportunity to add to their toolkit after the discussion.