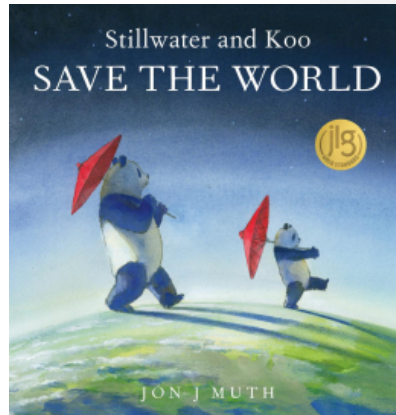




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WITS Connection: Walk Away Ignore X Talk it out X Seek Help

Story Summary:

Koo is a young panda who always speaks in haiku and has big ideas about fixing all the things that are wrong with the world in an effort to save it. Over the course of an eventful day, Koo discovers that it's the many small actions we take every day that add up to make the world a better place. In this story, Koo learns that by showing up every day and doing his best, he helps heal the world a little bit at a time.

Teacher's Notes:

Resources:



Pre-Reading

Questions:

1. What do you like to do when you have a day full of opportunities and no plans?
2. How does it make you feel to do good for others? For the world? Share some examples of these acts.
3. In this story, Koo speaks in haiku. Teach a lesson on recognizing/writing haiku.

Commented [EL1]: I can develop this lesson if you'd like

While Reading

Questions:

1. Practice recognizing haiku throughout the book, breaking down syllables in each line.
2. While standing by the pond with his uncle, Koo asks, "I wonder, do fish swim knowing how very big the vast ocean is?". What do you think the answer to his question is?
3. Have you ever done any of the actions Koo and Stillwater are taking to make the world a better place in the book? Which ones inspire you?
4. Why do you think Koo and Stillwater believe the world is delicate? Do you believe that? If so, why?



Post-Reading

Questions:

1. How would you describe Stillwater and Koo's relationship? What evidence do you have from the book?
2. At the end of the day trying to save the world, Koo returns to his earlier question and says, "I don't believe fish know how big the ocean is. They just do their best". What lesson did Koo learn in that moment?
3. Reflect on some of the ways Koo and Stillwater took care of the world and each other in the book. What are some ways we/you can take care of the world and each other today? (Focus on no action being too small – practice reframing how we think about them)

Post-Reading Activity:

1. Guide students through a reflection on the WITS strategy, Talk it Out, and how Koo practiced it in the story (e.g. leaning on his uncle to share his fears, dreams, desires, trusting someone else with his feelings).
2. Instruct students to write a poem about "talking it out" and illustrate it.
 - a. If appropriate, instruct students to write in haiku
3. Offer students the opportunity to share their poems with the class or with a partner.