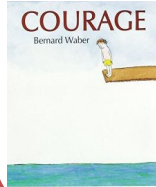


STORYTELLER

Courage



Story: Bernard Waber
Illustration: Bernard Waber
ISBN-13: 978-0618238552
Comprehension: [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.L.K.3](#)

WORD WALL: COURAGE

Bravery, boldness, daring, fearlessness, nerve, strength.

SYNOPSIS

This book explores a variety of ways in which one can be courageous. Some things are extraordinary and other things are everyday decisions that children make. Acrobats in the circus are courageous in ways that most people are not. However, arriving early to a birthday party or sending a Valentine card can be outside one's comfort zone and present opportunities to display courage.

DISCUSSION

Ask: Can anyone think of a time that they needed to be brave? **Say:** Having courage can be scary at first but it allows us to do new things that may end up being very important. For example, you might have been nervous on the first day of school, but courage allowed you to join this class where you learn and make new friends. **Demonstrate:** [Note: This activity requires a wide mouthed glass or jar, uncooked rice, and an uncooked egg.] **Say:** It takes courage to do the right thing when others are not. A courageous person will rise to the top and stand out from the rest. **Place** the egg in the middle of the glass or jar so that it is completely surrounded by rice. **Say:** The egg represents someone who is spending time with his friends. One day, his friends start making fun of other people. The egg doesn't like this, so it tells them to stop. **Tap** the rim of the glass (or jar); the egg

will rise up from the glass with each tap. **Say:** Next, the group of friends start excluding others from their games (**tap** the rim), and they start telling lies. Each time the egg refuses to go along with the others, it uses courage to stand up for the right thing. Continue to **tap** the rim until the egg has completely risen above the rice.

GROUP ACTIVITY

Distribute the activity page included in this lesson plan. **Say:** being aware of what scares us and what we can bravely face is an important step in developing new courage. Use the activity page to name and draw one thing you are afraid of and one thing that others may find scary but you are not afraid of. **Conclude** the activity and **ask:** What helps you be brave? **Allow** each child to name one thing that helps them be brave (e.g. a comfort object, singing, thinking positive thoughts, or having someone hold their hand). **Say:** Family and friends can help us overcome our fears. Remember to talk with your family and friends about overcoming fear; they can encourage you and help you stay responsible and safe.

AT-HOME ACTIVITY

Say: Sometimes we forget that we used to be afraid of something because now it doesn't seem scary at all. Ask a parent to tell you about things you used to be afraid of when you were younger. If they have photos or videos, ask to see them.



COURAGE REQUIRES FORTITUDE

Courage is risk for a reason not for a thrill. Courage requires we moderate our impulses and emotions. Courage leads me to consider the Heroic Journey in which people live for purposes bigger than themselves and their wants and needs.

ACTIVITY PAGE: COURAGE

Today, we read a book about courage. Courage is your willingness to do something even if it scares you. Think about one thing that scares you, and one thing that you can face bravely. Write and draw both below. It can be animals, activities, or objects.

Name _____

I AM AFRAID OF _____

IT LOOKS LIKE THIS:

I AM NOT AFRAID OF _____

IT LOOKS LIKE THIS: