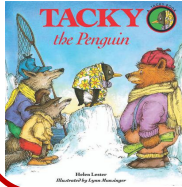


Tacky the Penguin



Story: Helen Lester

Illustration: Lynn Munsinger

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Comprehension: [CCSS.ELA-Literacy.SL.K.1](#)

WORD WALL: WELCOME

Accept, appreciate, approve, include, welcome.

SYNOPSIS

Tacky has five companions: Goodly, Lovely, Angel, Neatly, and Perfect. Tacky does not dress, walk, dive, or sing like them and is viewed as odd by the others. When the hunters came, Tacky's courage protected the other penguins. The penguins learned to appreciate Tacky just the way he is. This is a book about inclusion, acceptance, and respect for all.

DISCUSSION

Ask: At the beginning of the story, did Tacky play with his companions? Do you think that they played together more after the incident with the hunters? Why? What lesson did the other penguins learn? **Say:** To exclude somebody means not to let them take part in an activity. This is a very hurtful act and a form of bullying. **Ask:** What should kids do when they see someone excluded from a game? **Say:** If we ever spot a classmate who seems left out of something, we can show kindness by asking others to include them or by joining them. Imagine what you would like others to do if you were excluded, and try to do the same for others. **Optional:** Play the Sesame Street Word on the Street video about [Respect](#) (5:46 minutes). **Say:** Among penguins, we can find many different types. Here are some names of types of penguins: Adelie, African, Chinstrap, Emperor, Humboldt, King, Little, Macaroni, Rockhopper, Royal, and Yellow-eyed. Different species of penguins have different habits, diet,

and abilities. Liking all types of penguins does not mean ignoring their differences. It means getting to know and respecting the unique aspects of each penguin. It also means that we need to understand the differences in needs of each penguin. **Ask:** Why is it important to know that different penguins have different needs? **Say:** It helps caretakers and veterinarians provide the food, medications, and environment appropriate to each animal, whether it is in its natural habitat or in captivity.

GROUP ACTIVITY

Provide children with paper, washable markers, colored pencils, and crayons. **Say:** Today we will create drawings titled "Everyone is Different." We will all draw four people who are very different from each other. Every person in the picture should appear different from each other. The people you draw can have different hair colors, clothing, facial features, skin tone, personalities, or family lives. Maybe they have a wheelchair or another assistive device. Maybe they love art or sports or cooking. Once children have finished drawing, **ask** for volunteers to share with the class about the people in their drawing. **Conclude** the activity with a discussion about the beauty of diversity.

AT-HOME ACTIVITY

Distribute copies of the coloring page, *A Unique Penguin* (included in this lesson plan). **Say:** In our school, we celebrate diversity and appreciate differences. Create a unique penguin using the coloring page. Bring it to class for sharing in our Penguin Gallery.



KINDNESS REQUIRES EMPATHY

Kindness is the desire to lift others' spirits, help the ones in need, and mend relationships. Kindness requires that I take the time to listen, understand, and take action to benefit other people and the world.

A Unique Penguin

Today, we read the book, *Tacky the Penguin*. We learned about appreciating diversity and uniqueness in people and animals. For our classroom gallery, create a unique penguin using original patterns and your favorite colors. Think of an imaginative name for your penguin. Have fun!

Student Name: _____
Penguin's Name: _____

