



CHRYSANTHEMUM: THE TARGET OF TEASING

Learning Objectives: The student will...

1. Identify the characteristics of good citizenship including justice and respect for oneself and others.
2. Express ideas orally based on knowledge and experiences.
3. Obtain information about a topic by conducting interviews.

TEKS:SS 1.12A&B, 1.16A, 1.17C, 2.10A, 2.15A, 2.16E

Materials Needed: *Chrysanthemum* by Kevin Henkes, copies of the attached "Chrysanthemum" heart printed on red paper (1 per student), scissors, crayons or markers

Vocabulary: begrudging, chrysanthemum, discontented, dreadful, envious, good citizen, indescribable, jaundiced, justice, miserably, Parcheesi, positive, respect, scarcely, trifle, winsome, wilted

Teaching Strategy:

1. Introduce the lesson by using the Think-Pair-Share strategy. Tell students to imagine that there is a person in their class that has been bullying students and making fun of them. Allow a minute for each student to think about the problem. Divide students into pairs and have them discuss ways to solve the bullying problem. Ask groups to share their ideas with the class. Have students tell how they feel when someone bullies or teases them.
2. Review with the class that two of the characteristics of good citizenship include justice and respect for oneself and others.
3. Ask students to define justice (treating everyone fairly). Discuss what respect for oneself and others means. (Treat others as you would want to be treated; accept those who are different; be considerate of other people's feelings)
4. Tell students that you are going to read the book *Chrysanthemum* by Kevin Henkes. Show the class the cover of the book and point out that the main character in the story is a mouse named Chrysanthemum.
5. Give each student a red paper heart and tell them it represents Chrysanthemum's heart and how she feels about herself. Have students cut out the heart with scissors.
6. Begin reading the book. After reading the sentence "Chrysanthemum loved her name" on page 3, instruct students to draw a smiley face with crayon or marker on the heart to represent Chrysanthemum's positive feeling. Each time a sentence states how Chrysanthemum loves her name, students should draw another smiley face on the heart.
7. On page 7 in the book, the students at school giggle when they hear Chrysanthemum's name. Instruct students to tear off a small piece of the heart to represent the sad feeling the giggles must have caused in chrysanthemum's heart.
8. Read the remainder of the book. Each time a character in the book makes fun of Chrysanthemum's name, students should tear another small piece off the heart.

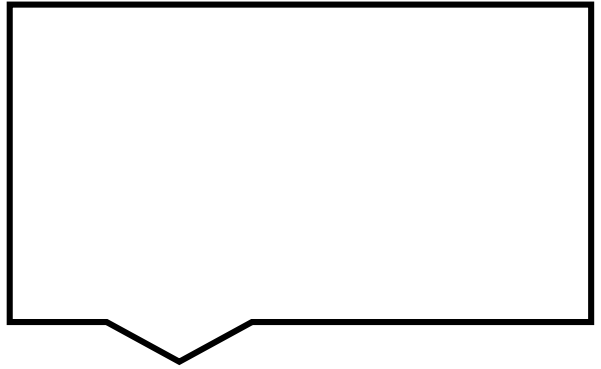
(Additional smiley faces may be added to the remaining section of heart when Chrysanthemum's parents encourage her, if desired.)

9. Discuss any or all of the following questions:
 - Why do you think Jo, Rita, and Victoria made fun of Chrysanthemum and teased her?
 - Do you think they were being fair? Why or why not?
 - How did their remarks make Chrysanthemum feel?
 - If you had been one of Chrysanthemum's classmates, what might you have said to make Chrysanthemum feel better?
 - In what ways did Mrs. Twinkle help solve the problem?
11. Direct student's attention back to their paper hearts. Ask students to try to put their hearts back together. Discuss the following points:
 - Even if tape is used to reconnect the pieces of the heart, it will never be the same again. Why?
 - Teasing, bullying, and treating people unfairly can cause memories of hurt feelings that will last forever. How is that like the torn heart?
 - What do you think is the main point the author was trying to make by writing this story?
 - How can you exhibit good citizenship in the classroom and at school?

Extension for the Gifted/Talented:

During naptime, Victoria informed Chrysanthemum's teacher, Mrs. Chad, that Chrysanthemum's name was spelled with 13 letters, which was half as many letters as there were in the entire alphabet! Mrs. Chad said, "Thank you for sharing that with us, Victoria." Did Mrs. Chad handle the situation with Victoria correctly? Defend your position/opinion in a paragraph.

INTERVIEW SHEET



Who chose my name? Why it was chosen? What does my name mean?

