

Book: The Jester Lost His Jingle

Possible Themes: self-esteem, coping, change/difficult times

Publisher, Publishing Date and ISBN Number: Jester Company, Inc., January 1995, 9780964456303

Author: David Saltzman Illustrator: David Saltzman

Recommended Age of Child: Ages 6 and up

Description of Book:

In this charming tale, the Jester awakens one morning to find laughter missing in his kingdom, and he and his helpmate, Pharley, set off on a quest to find it. They ultimately discover that not only can laughter redeem a weary world, it can also provide the best tonic for anyone facing seemingly insurmountable obstacles.

Quote from Book:

"So when you're feeling lonely, or sad, or bad, or blue, remember where laughter's hiding...It's hiding inside of you."

Lesson Plan Ideas:

Have the child make a collage of what makes them happy. They can use magazine pictures, photographs, etc. Cut and paste the pictures on a sheet of paper so they can see "what happiness means to me."

The use of puppets in telling a story can open up avenues of discussion with the child. Out of an old sock or a small paper bag, help the child to make their own puppet.

Have the child tell you what song makes them happy each time they hear it. Make a tape of the song for them to be able to play whenever they feel the need to bring a smile in their life.

Get a disposable camera and tell your child to take pictures of different people's smiles. A smile collage can serve as a constant reminder that the ability to smile lies within each person.

Materials Needed: Permanent markers, small pieces of paper, socks, small paper bag, magazines, crayons, markers, paint, large pieces of art paper, paintbrushes, lots of wipes and soap and water.