

Beeing Civil

A Cosmos Grow Adventure



Getting along with others can be hard.

But being civil has its own reward.

It is a skill that you must learn.

It means to be nice and take your turn.

Beeing Civil

A. Main Focus:

The story **Beeing Civil** concentrates on the need for us to be polite, courteous and respectful of others. In our society, these skills are necessary to avoid conflict and to encourage friendship. We must learn how to respond to the success and failure experienced by others and ourselves. Being civil does mean to say, please and thank you, but it also means much more than that. This story will give children an insight into how they can tune in to being civil.

B. The Main Concepts:

Some children have the bad habit of making fun of those who make a mistake or fail at a task. This story allows you to discuss the idea that when you ridicule others, you are being "uncivil". For some children, their environment may encourage making fun of others and this is a way of discouraging that type of behavior.

The story also addresses a problem common to many children, that of interrupting others. You may be able to control this type of behavior with stern looks and punishments, but it would be far better if the children could control themselves. A verbal cue of, "we are being uncivil", may generalize in time and the children would learn to control their own insistence to be seen and heard. Children seldom recognize that "day dreaming" and other distracting activities are detrimental to their success in school. In the story, Cosmos points out that these behaviors are uncivil. If you are being impolite by day dreaming, you may miss out on "a bit of knowledge that may be very important for your success and happiness."

Cosmos' final observation is that school children push and shove each other. This of course could never happen in a beehive. Bees are much too courteous and polite to push and shove. In fact, "they are aware where others are walking so that they don't bump them". The lessons of the story are simple. But in their simplicity is their beauty. If we practiced being civil to each other, all day, and every day, how much happier and successful could we all be in our lives?

C. Teach the Defining Terms to The Students

D. Listen to the Flip Book Story

E. Sample Dialogue with Students after Listening to the Story

What does Cosmos say that being civil means?

It means to treat others the way that you want to be treated.

Does anyone know another name that we sometimes call this idea or rule?

The Golden Rule

It is called the Golden Rule because it is seen to be the top or most important rule of all.

Can you imagine what the world would be like if everyone practiced this rule every day? If everyone treated others the way that they want to be treated, how would the world be different?

People would be kind, generous, loving, etc. There would not be stealing, or fighting, or crime in general. ETC...

In the story, what does Cosmos say the other bees would do if one of them found, "a lot of nectar flower"?

The other bees would not try to take it from them. They would congratulate them and tell them good job.

Cosmos mentions that the bees were not jealous. What does it mean to be jealous?

Being jealous is when someone makes themselves very upset or angry because someone else has something or gets to do something that they do not have or do not get to do.

The bees in the story did not get jealous that one bee found a lot of nectar. They did not get upset or angry with that bee just because he or she found a great flower that day.

Cosmos also talks about the word generous. What does it mean to be generous?

Being generous means that you are willing to give or do things for others. That if you have more than you need of something or have something that you do not really use but know someone else needs it, then you are willing to give to them.

In the story, the bee that found the “lot of nectar flower” would gather all that he or she needed, and then would call out to others to share the nectar that was still there. He or she did not try to hide it or keep it a secret that there was more, they tried to share it with others who needed it. That is being generous.

Can anyone think of some examples of how we can be generous to others in our lives?

Donating old toys or clothes to those who are in need. Being generous with our time by offering to help with chores or picking up around the house. Being generous with our attention by noticing if a classmate is alone at recess and offering to spend the time with them, etc.

Cosmos also talks about how the bees treat each other at events like a music performance. He says that they always encourage and support each other, even if the bee is not very good or makes mistakes. That they would never think to laugh at each other, because they know that they would not want to be laughed at either. This is another way that they are civil to each other.

What are some other ways that Cosmos mentions in the story that bees are civil?

They pay attention at bee school and they do not push and shove in the bee hive.

What do you all think would happen if each of you decide to start being more civil? If starting today you decided that you were going to always work to treat others the way you want to be treated?

We would be happier. Others would like us more. Our classroom would be a happy and positive place.

Do you think that you could set an example of being civil and that others may want to start being more like you? Could our class deciding to be civil to each other every day, help to make our school or our homes more civil?