

Howard Whosjobisit

A Gosmos Grow Adventure



Wouldn't it be nice if you only had to do the things
You really enjoyed doing.

Someone else would do all the boring or difficult things in life.
You would only be required to do things you wanted to do
and only for as long as they were fun.

You are going to meet someone else who wanted life to be that way.
A very interesting squirrel named
Howard Whosjobisit.

Howard Whosjobisit

A. Main Focus:

Most of us would like to only do the fun stuff and only for as long as it is fun. Not only will that cause you difficulties with others, it will cause you problems throughout your life.

B. The Main Concepts:

It is typical for children to avoid the difficult, the boring, and the mundane things in life. Unfortunately, following this will cause problems in school and in other parts of their lives.

The well-meaning parent who is always "helping" the child avoid or easily overcome any difficulty is really reinforcing the belief, "Life should always be easy and fun."

Then, when this child is thrown into a setting which is often neither easy nor fun (school) they can become frustrated and angry. Their demand that this new setting should conform to their expectations can cause conflict with teachers and peers. Their parents may see their child as the victim of an overly demanding system rather than the victim of their own irrational thinking.

Cosmos Crow often asks the question, "How difficult a situation can you handle?" The answer should be "As difficult as it is." In other words, we choose to be frustrated or angry and quit a task if our thinking is (Stinky).

Stinky Thinking allows us to give ourselves permission to feel it is too hard and that we do not have to do it.

On the other hand, if we have Good Thinking, we would say, "They would not ask me to do something that is impossible to do. Difficult but not impossible".

You want to use this story to help the child understand that refusing to do the difficult and boring things in life can have negative consequences. This may seem overly apparent to many adults, but avoiding the tasks that you

may understand are necessary for a successful life is the natural predisposition of many children. The earlier this belief system is modified the better.

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

We don't know what happened to Howard but it did not sound like the story would have a happy ending.

Let's see if you understood the story.

In the beginning of the story, Cosmos makes the comment that Cosmos parents maybe loved him too much, what does he mean by that? (They loved him and did not want to make him do things he didn't want to do, so he did not learn things he needed to)

Who would like to tell me one was the first thing Cosmos Crow noticed about Howard that made him know that Howard was different than the other squirrels? (He would not keep his nest clean and neat)

Now let's take just a moment...and think about how desk, or book sack, or bedroom, and does it ever look like there is a Howard Whosjobisit living there? (Pause)

Now keeping your room or in Howard's case his nest clean and neat may not seem too important but what was the next thing Cosmos noticed about Howard that make him think that Howard was not like the others? (He would not help others)

That's right he was not helpful and would not do his share of the work. Let me ask all of you... is being helpful always fun and easy? (No)

Do others always thank you or give you money when you help them? (No)

Do feel that helping others is about getting something like money or praise for what you do? (No, it should be about helping them because it is the right thing to do or because working together to complete a task helps everyone)

Cosmos was making the point that helping others and doing your share...and maybe even more than your share of the work will make others like and respect you. They will want to help you in return.

Isn't nice when others smile and are happy to see you? (Yes)

Do you think the other squirrels were smiling and happy to see Howard when he would show up? (No)

I think Cosmos was pointing out that by helping others you are learning how to get along with others and how to have them appreciate you so that when you need help they are willing to help you.

And when it came time to collect nuts for winter...did anyone want to help Howard? (No) Why not?

And then what was Howard's plan to make gathering nuts easier? (He was trying to put a barrow in a tree to catch nuts)

Was this plan easier? (No, he spent so much time and energy on this plan when it would have been easier to just gather the nuts.)

Now we can all sometimes act just like Howard...we sometimes spend more time trying to get out of doing your classwork or homework than the time it would take you to just do it. Needing to get a snack, or take a break, or fuss and whine about having to do it. All of those things just make the process of getting the work done even longer.

And at the end of the story, we see that Howard who always wants everything to be easy is stuck in the cold winter with no food and no way to get anymore.

What would happen if any of you would be like Howard...you never pay attention in class, you never do the assignments, you never study for the tests? (You will fail the class)

And just like with Howard...next year we would not know where to find you.

Ask for a volunteer to tell us about any opportunity that they had to do tasks that they would usually avoid. What Good thinking did they use to help them to try this task.