

# **Injustice Collectors**

## **A Gosmos Grow Adventure**



Hurtful things happen and disappointments occur.  
People can be cruel and inconsiderate. Your best laid plans can fail.  
Many things seem to get in the way of your happiness. Such is life.

Some of you will accept that, "stuff happens"  
and learn from these less than desirable outcomes.  
You will deal with these situations and let them pass from your memory.

But some of you will insist that something,  
"Should not have happened that way"  
and that the other person is terrible, horrible and should be punished forever.  
You will relive the hurt and develop the skill of keeping your embarrassment  
or anger alive until it takes a life of its own.

You have become an "Injustice Collector"

# Injustice Collector

## Main Focus:

**"The world should be fair, and bad people should be punished." "When people act unfairly, I should blame them and see them as bad, wicked, or mean individuals." Humans have cornered the market on "holding grudges", "getting even" and all of the other Thumbs Down behaviors we associate with those of us known as Injustice Collectors.**

## A. The Main Concepts:

We may be the only animal species that holds a grudge. We may be the only one that can justify present behavior on the actions of others in the distant past. We may be the only one that will engage in despicable behavior and be able to justify it on the flimsiest misinterpretation of the motives of others.

As a species, we have cornered the market on Injustice Collecting. We are not the least bit hesitant to justify what we are doing today because, "Well, they did it to me last month." Because of our complex memory, we are also able to amass transgressions: "I remember at least three times that you..." Our complex brain allows us to hypothesize, "You may not have done it this time, but you intended to." As humans, we have the luxury of pondering the various instances that might indicate that someone was considering being ugly to us.

## B. Teach the Defining Terms to The Students

## C. Listen to the Flip Book Story

## D. Sample Dialogue with Students after Listening to the Story

In our world, people can be injustice collectors just as in this story. Of course we do not have crystal spheres, but we do have memories and imaginations that allow us to pull up past injustices and make ourselves upset. Most people recall an injustice or two that has happened, but some people do it so much that it becomes a habit.

What are some examples of what Injustice Collecting looks like in our world?

- Someone is quick to become angry at the smallest situation, problem, or disappointment
- Someone is quick to get hurt feelings over typical or “no big deal” situations
- Someone gets angry or sad to an unnecessary degree
- Statements such as, “Do you remember what they said to me that time,” “Do you know what they did to me back then”?
- Family grudges- Family member that do not get along or cannot be around each other over something that happened years or decades ago and that some may not even remember what started it.

These are all signs of Injustice Collecting, or holding on to negative memories and emotions just to bring them up and relive them later. We may store a memory of an insult so that any future remark made by that person whether a true insult or not, gets the same level reaction from us.

What does it mean to hold a grudge?

Every time a squirrel would look at an old sphere what would happen? The sphere would brighten up the same as it was when the injustice first happened.

This is what holding a grudge is like.

In the story, some squirrels carry the injustices with them in a sack, some hide them in a tree, some show them off to everyone. Do you feel that any of these are better ways to keep the injustices than the others? (No, because all of them are still ways that they are holding on to the injustices instead of letting them go.)

Cosmos learns that there is a way to burst the spheres. How can they do this? By deciding to forgive or let go of whatever the other person may have done or said. By choosing not to hold on to this negative emotion.

Are there times when we need to remember what someone has done to you before? Yes, in situations where a person is truly a threat to you, or has maliciously and purposely hurt you, then for your own safety and well-being it is important to keep those things in mind.

Let's take a moment and think about people that we know. We are not pointing fingers or naming names, but think to yourself

1. How many people do you know that are Injustice Collectors?
2. Are more of your friends Injustice Collectors or not Injustice Collectors
3. Which friends do you enjoy being around more?

If you feel that you enjoy being around the Injustice Collectors more then you may also be one.

Do you allow yourself to stay angry with people for long periods of time? Do you hold grudges? Do you let an ugly look or comment get you all upset when there is no reason for it? Do you justify why you were not nice to someone by recalling something that they did to you days, weeks, or months earlier?

In the story, Cosmos learns about the ability to burst the spheres. What are some ways that we can burst our spheres or memories?

How can being an Injustice Collector cause problems in our lives?