

Ugly Unicorn

A Cosmos Grow Adventure



Being funny by making fun of others is not a nice behavior.

Saying hurtful things to others is not a nice behavior.

Pointing out other's mistakes to make yourself look good is not a nice behavior.

Gossiping about others is not a nice behavior.

But these "not nice" behaviors seem to come very naturally to many of us.

If you allow yourself to engage in these "not nice" behaviors, they can become a

habit and you may not realize how hurtful you are being.

In time, others may not want to be around you and you will be

as lonely as a Unicorn.

The Ugly Unicorn Lesson Plan

A. Main Focus:

Making ourselves feel more important, powerful, well liked at the expense of others is a very typical childish behavior. But left unchanged it is recipe for unhappiness.

B. The Main Concepts:

Being funny by making fun of others is not a nice behavior. Saying hurtful things to others is not a nice behavior. Pointing out other's mistakes to make yourself look good is not nice behavior. Gossiping about others is not a nice behavior. But these "not nice" behaviors seem to come very naturally to many of us. If you allow yourself to engage in these "not nice" behaviors, they can become a habit and you may not realize how hurtful you are being. In time, others may not want to be around you.

Within every group of children there is always a "unicorn" or two. They delight in embarrassing others, or withholding approval. They are the gossipmongers and tattletales. But they tend to always claim innocence, "But I was only telling the truth", without regard to the hurt or embarrassment they cause. Because it is so common, we have a tendency to overlook this behavior as simple childhood foolishness that they will outgrow. And some do "outgrow" their irrational thinking and their hurtful behavior. Sometimes because of the intervention of a friend. Sometimes by getting a "taste of their own medicine." And sometimes by the recognition that they don't like the person they have become.

But for some, this "Unicorn Thinking" becomes a habit so much a part of their perception of "Self" that it is seen as necessary and appropriate. Like any habit or addiction, they can try to rid themselves of this hateful, gossipmonger behavior and then suddenly without warning, they slip back into a pattern of behavior illustrated in this story. But once you have become a "Unicorn", you see yourself as powerless to stop. Although these "Unicorns" may enjoy the attention they garner with their "juicy bit of gossip", ultimately others will shy away from them out of fear that they will

become a victim of their gossip. The reasons for this rejection by others will be a mystery to those who gossip, but as obvious to others as the horn on a unicorn.

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

I know that this is a pretend story...but it is also very real. I know some of you have had to deal with others who have acted like the Ugly Unicorns.

With a quick show of hands only, how many of you have had to put up with these foolish Ugly Unicorn type kids?

Without naming any names, would anyone like to share what they thought about those who were acting like an Ugly Unicorn? (Don't ask for specific example) (Encourage them to speak up about their THINKING and it is okay if it is just general, "I thought they were being jerks")

How did you feel when they were (use the children's words...jerk, mean and so on)? (Usually they will say angry or embarrassed)

The horses told Cosmos that the Unicorns gossiped about others...who can tell me what is gossiping? (Gossip is "designed to make you look better or more important and make others look worse")

Is it okay to gossip about someone if it is true? (No, Just because it is true does not mean that it is anyone else's business or is something that needs to be shared with others)

Did the horses like the Unicorn's behavior? (No, because it was very annoying and hurtful to the others)

Can anyone get into the habit of gossiping about others? (Yes, gossiping about others is something that we all can fall into doing)

In the story, the leader explains that unicorns were not a separate breed of horse but were horses that were ugly. What does he mean by that? (The lead horse

explained that by ugly, he did not mean their appearance. They treated others in an ugly manner. They made fun of others. They gossiped and were quick to point out other's shortcomings or mistakes. All of these behaviors were very "unhorse like".)

What would happen to the horses that had the gossiping behavior? (Those horses that engaged in these types of behaviors would get a little bump in the middle of their forehead. If they kept up this behavior the bump would grow. If they stopped their hateful and hurtful behavior, the bump would go away.)

But as stated in the story, for some horses, these hurtful behaviors had a special allure that caused them to continue until the bump became what? (A horn)

Once they had developed the full size horn, they were unicorns and unlike to change.

Great Grey, the leader of the horses had a very hard decision to make. What was this decision? (He had to decide what to do with the unicorns because they were a problem for the rest of the horses, but his own daughter was a unicorn as well)

What decision did Great Grey make? (He decided that because of their behavior, they needed to be banished to an island all to themselves.)

Once all of the unicorns were on their own island, how was the land of horses? (All of the horses noted how nice it was to be rid of the gossiping, manipulative unicorns)

What would happen if a unicorn on the island decided to change their behaviors? (They would return to the mainland and their horn would be gone)

Then one day, there was a rumbling sound from Unicorn Island and what happened? (An explosion that destroyed the island and all of the unicorns)

We know that this explosion was a what? (volcanic eruption)

But how did Great grey explain the explosion? (He explained that, "Today it seems that even their island has had enough of their gossiping and hateful behaviors.")

Do you think that only children have gossiping behavior? (No, adults to sometimes as well)

Do you think that adults who engage in "Unicorn Behavior" started when they were adults or in childhood? (Most often it started in childhood and they never learned to change it)

At the end of the story, Cosmos and the horse are talking and Cosmos says, "It does make sense that we would not want to associate with others who make fun of and gossip about us. Even if at times it seems funny or harmless, if you get into a habit of doing it, you will be hurtful and eventually, you will be banished."

In our world, what are some examples of how we may be "banished"? (Others may avoid you and not have any friends, the ugly behaviors could get you in trouble and suspended, adults may lose jobs because of ugly behaviors, etc)

What could the other horses have done to help the horse with just a little bump on their head change so they would not get a horn and become an Ugly Unicorn? (Tell them to stop making fun of others...stop gossiping, etc,).

What can we do to make sure that we stop this Unicorn Behavior and help others to as well?