

Chocolate Festival

A Gosmos Grow Adventure



Prejudice: "An adverse opinion or leaning formed without just grounds or before sufficient knowledge is acquired."

You can be prejudiced toward people of a different race, religion or sex.
You can be prejudiced toward certain subjects or teachers.

Others can be prejudiced toward you.

Anyone can be prejudiced for silly reasons or for no apparent reason at all.

Prejudice is always very hurtful.

It can be caused when you don't understand something or someone
and as you will see in this story, it is always the result of your
Stinky Thinking.

Chocolate Festival

Main Focus:

Prejudice is a common human characteristic that seems so normal that often we don't realize that it is caused by our Stinky Thinking. This story illustrates how irrational and hurtful prejudice can impact others and how we facilitate it when we don't challenge it.

A. The Main Concepts:

This story illustrates how destructive Prejudice can be for everyone. We can define prejudice as "**A negative opinion or leaning formed without just grounds or before sufficient knowledge.**" It is an example of how "Stinky Thinking" can cause problems in society as well as personal problems.

Children are notorious for being prejudice toward certain classmates, teachers, chores and even foods. Luckily, because these beliefs, (formed without just grounds or before sufficient knowledge) are not yet strongly held, often they can be changed. A child who refuses to try a new food and labels it as "yucky", can learn how to try a "yucky" food and may even discover it tastes okay, and be willing to eat it in the future.

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

Squiggy was different. Not anything major, he just did not like chocolate like the other squirrels. Do you feel this was any reason for the other squirrels to treat him badly?

No, they were treating him badly because of their Stinky Thinking.

What did Cosmos say about likes like, Fuzzy Tail or Red Tail?

In everyday life we hear about people who are being prejudiced towards others because of race, religion, gender, or something as simple as the way

they dress. Can anyone think of an example of how someone could dress that would make others have an opinion about them without having any facts?

Avoiding someone or being mean to someone just because they are different or like different things is Stinky Thinking and it is being prejudiced.

Have any of you ever been a victim of someone being prejudiced towards you? Without naming names, would anyone like to share an example?

When someone is prejudiced towards you, how does it make you feel when someone is wrongly judging you because of the way you dress or how you look?

In the story, Squiggy does not take part in the festival because he does not like chocolate. He is not mean about it. He was honest and hoped that the others would have a good time and enjoy his share of the chocolate.

Sometimes even without realizing it, we demand that everyone be like us. Red Tail and Fuzzy Tail were like that. They created reasons why Squiggy would not participate and told all of the others these made up reasons. What do you think about the other squirrels that listened to their reasons?

When the other squirrels listened to the stories, Red Tail and Fuzzy Tail started to actually believe their own lies. They convinced themselves and others that it was okay to be mean to Squiggy because he had done something wrong.

The other squirrels caused themselves to become angry and fearful by telling themselves that Squiggy was bad. These Not "OK" emotions caused them to "see" things that were not even true. What is an example of this?

They saw that the trees were not fruitful and that the crows were really Hawks coming to attack them.

Who do you think is the bad squirrel or squirrels in the story? Red and Fuzzy Tail were the leaders of the Stinky Thinking but every squirrel that believed and followed them was just as wrong.

They were all being prejudiced and not speaking up when others were being prejudiced.

Prejudice can only exist if we let Stinky Thinking of others influence us, and we do not say or do anything to stop it.

If the only reason that you do not like something like math is because it is hard, then you are being prejudiced. If the only reason that you do not like a teacher is because they push you to do your best, then you are being prejudiced.

The prejudice shown to Squiggy was very hurtful to him and it was so bad that he had to move away. What happened to the other squirrels when moved? They became completely intolerant of any squirrel that was different in any way.

Prejudiced thoughts and actions spread very quickly if they are not challenged.