

Ollie the Observant

A Cosmos Grow Adventure



New situations can be scary.
Trying new things can be frightening.
Meeting new people can be worrisome.
But Ollie Owl knew just what to do.
And so can you.

Ollie the Observant

A. Main Focus:

In this story, we emphasize that kindness and concern for others are very valuable skills. In addition, we can often learn what the more effective coping skills are by observing others. When we can identify those around us that have effective coping skills, we can then learn the coping styles of those who are successful in dealing with life's difficulties

B. The Main Concepts:

The fable, Ollie the Observant, is a story about learning how to become admired and trusted. Ollie was a stranger in his new home, but by observing others, using his Good Thinking, and engaging in Thumbs Up Behavior, he was able to earn the admiration and trust of all of the other owls.

We are not born knowing how to be successful and happy. We are not born knowing how to be admired and trusted. But we can learn these skills by observing others. By paying attention to how others, who are admired and trusted, behave toward others. They may not be able to explain it to you, but by paying attention, you can teach it to yourself.

This story focuses on a young owl who is new to that area of the forest. As many children know, new situations can be scary. Trying new things can be frightening. And meeting new people can be worrisome. But surprisingly despite all of this, Ollie, was able to do all of these things without a problem. And in the process he was able to show the other owls examples of good thinking and earned the admiration and trust of the other owls.

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

In the first part of the story, Cosmos tells us how Ollie behaved in class. What are some of the ways that he behaved? Ollie was the one who paid attention in class. He did not jump up and down or wave his wings to get attention, even though he always knew the answer to the teacher's questions.

To be able to act like Ollie, what kind of thinking do we need? Good Thinking:

What is an example of good thinking that Ollie maybe used to help him stay calm when he knew an answer? "I know the answer, but all this jumping up and down annoys the teacher. I will sit quietly and not raise my wing. If she calls on me, good. If not, that's okay too."

You probably also noticed that Ollie was on time for the hunting meeting. In fact, Ollie was always on time. Is it always easy to be on time to things? No, it can be difficult and even a lot of trouble sometimes.

So why did Ollie feel it was important to be on time? Because once again, Ollie used Good Thinking: "It is rude for me to be late for this meeting. It shows that I don't care enough to be on time. I will have to stop what I am doing right now so that I am sure not to be late."

This is not always easy, but it is Good Thinking and shows that you have respect for others and you respect yourself.

Cosmos often talks about "doing what is in your best self-interest." What does that mean? That means doing something that is good for you, and is not purposely trying to be mean to others.

Sometimes someone may want something of yours that you don't want to share. Do you have to give it away just because they want it? No, sharing is a nice thing to do and being willing to share with others is important, but if something is special or important to you, you do not have to give it to them just because they want it.

It is okay to say, "I really don't want to share this." If the other person gets upset because you don't share, that is their Stinky Thinking and not your fault.

But "doing what is in your best self-interest" does not mean to be mean or unhelpful.

Sometimes being helpful isn't what is fun to do or it is difficult. Sometimes the ones you are helping don't seem to appreciate the help. But that is okay.

What does it mean to be helpful without expecting praise or reward? It means that you help others because it is the right thing to do and not because you want to get a prize or attention for it.

Helping others in this way is Good Thinking and is part of what made the other owls admire Ollie.

What is an example of when Ollie helped others? When he helped the young owl with his lessons.

When Ollie helped them, he did not expect the other owls to congratulate him. He did it because it was the right and generous thing to do.

In our world, we sometimes call that having good "Character." Character means to do the right thing even if it isn't fun or is even difficult.

If you have Good Thinking as in, "I will help this other person because he is having so much trouble even if it means that I won't get to go out for recess," you will have good "Character."

Ollie impressed me when he volunteered to stay behind with the youngsters because of the concern about the bobcat. Obviously, Ollie was being brave. But of even more importance, he was willing to give up something fun to do something necessary.

When you act like Ollie, what kind of behavior are you having? you are having Thumbs Up behavior because of your Good Thinking.

Your Good Thinking is telling yourself, "This is important and I will do it, even if I miss out on something fun."

Ollie showed us that it is important to always do what you say you are going to do. Ollie told the others that he would take care of the youngsters. The other owls did not worry that he would fall asleep or wander off during the night. They knew that when Ollie said he would do something, that he would do it.

Because he would always do what he said he was going to do, the others trusted him.

Too often we say we are going to do something, but then do not do it. And often we have an excuse as to why we didn't do it.

Cosmos says that those excuses really mean, "Oh, I just let my Stinky Thinking take over and I had some Thumbs Down behavior."

If you want the trust of others, you must always do what you say you are going to do.

Ollie was a stranger in the woods, and yet he was able to get others to admire and trust him. In the story, Cosmos told us that being admired and trusted is even more important than being liked. Being admired and trusted takes a lot of work and Good Thinking, but it is worth it.