

Woolly Whiners



You often demand that things should go your way.
You want others to fix your problems and always play.
You get angry and are frustrated when they don't.
You demand that others "row" your "boat."

Woolly Whiners

A. Main Focus:

From the title, you can guess that the story is about whining. Whining behavior is the result of thinking that life should always turn out the way you want and expect. When it doesn't, you continue to insist that it "should", and become angry. But since angry behaviors will get you punished, you change that "Stinky Thinking" and anger into a manipulative behavior called whining.

B. The Main Concepts:

The fable, The Woolly Whiners, is a story about manipulation. That is a big word for getting others to do things that they should not do. In this case, it is a specific kind of manipulation called whining. You try to get others to let you out of some type of responsibility, like studying or cleaning your room. It can also be used to allow you to do something that you should not do, like staying up too late or eating something bad for you.

Some of you reading this story have discovered that by whining you can get others to change their mind. They will not insist that you do your homework. They may let you stay up late, rather than be rested for school. This whining is caused by your Stinky Thinking: "I should be able to do or not do anything I choose." Another Stinky belief is, "Others are just being mean to me when they tell me what is best for me."

In our story, the Woolly Whiners were allowed to whine themselves out of doing anything that was difficult. They were able to whine themselves into only doing those things that were fun. But just as in your real world, much of what is necessary for success and happiness is difficult to learn. Many things that will be fun in the future may not be fun now when you are just learning them.

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 our story, Connie, a wise old crow, has brought what to the young crows? The head of a stuffed bear toy.

The young crows are interested in what type of animal this could have been. Connie uses this opportunity to do what? To talk with the young crows about what happened to the animals known as the Woolly Whiners.

It seems that the Woolly Whiners looked like bears, but did they act like bears? No they did not act like bears.

How did the story say that bears usually act? Bears, like most animals, know that you must study and learn how to succeed in the world. They accept that these lessons are difficult and very few are fun all of the time.

How did the Woolly Whiners act different from the bears? The Whiners would fuss, "But this is too hard and will take too long and I want to go out and play."

Did this behavior help the Whiners to learn what they needed to learn? No

The Whiners learned very little and even what they did learn; they still did poorly because they refused to practice.

All animals know that when a parent says it is time for bed, it is because they want you to be well rested and alert the next day. But what would the Whiners say? The Whiners would say, "It is too early to go to bed" or "There is something I need to finish and I need to stay up just a little longer".

What would the parents do when they whined about going to bed? The parents of the Woolly Whiners would let them stay up even though the young Whiners were exhausted the next day.

When a parent bear tells a youngster to "Get yourself something to eat" or, "Please clean up after yourself", the young bear would do it. But what would the Woolly Whiners do? The Woolly Whiners would complain, "It's not my turn" or "I'm too busy" and would never get around to doing what the parent requested.

Connie tells us that the Woolly Whiners are now what? Extinct in the wild.

She told them that they only wanted to do things that were easy and fun to do all of the time. They were able to get away with this behavior because of their

whining. Then one of the young crows said that he still sees Woolly Whiners where? "But Connie, I still see these Woolly Whiners in the homes of humans."

How did Connie answer this young crow? "I said that the Woolys were extinct in the wild. They still can be seen in the houses of the humans. But after all, what animal whines more than a human?"

The Woolly Whiners in the story became extinct because they were whiners. A whiner is someone who complains about having to do or not do something due to their Stinky Thinking.

Take the example of studying. Everyone knows that you have to learn a lot of things in order to be happy and do well in life. No one tells you to go to school just because they are trying to be mean to you. Everyone knows that to learn anything you must practice. That can be schoolwork, sports, singing, riding a bike, etc. Practice may not always be fun, and at times we may feel that it is scary or hard. But without practice, we cannot learn new and fun things.

What type of thinking would a Woolly Whiner have if he told himself, "This homework is too hard and will take too long"? Stinky Thinking

Where do you whine the most, at school or at home?

Whichever it is, that is where you have the most Stinky Thinking. It is rare that you are asked to do something or not do something just because someone else wants to be mean to you. Usually, there is a good reason (based on Good Thinking) for the request. But we often use Stinky Thinking to turn any request, even a fun or exciting one, into something that can cause you to become angry.

Now that you understand that the whining of the Woolly Whiners was caused by their Stinky Thinking, it is time to talk about changing it to Good Thinking. Who in the story used Good Thinking? The Bears

The bears in the story are the examples of what we want to be more like. We want to use Good Thinking like they did. If we work to think more like the bears, then we will be able to learn new things, and be happier in life.