

An Inclusive Teacher's Guide for MyaGrace Wants to Get Ready



Genre: Nonfiction

GRL: H

Interest level: Pre-K-3

Disability represented:
cerebral palsy,
intellectual disabilities

Vocabulary:
message-information
you want to share

practice-trying to learn
something new by doing
it over and over again

get ready-complete the
tasks so you can begin
something new

list-a set of tasks you
want to complete

surprise-something you
didn't expect to happen

make-up-colored liquids
or powders to put on
your face to make you
be prettier



"I pledge to overcome the fear of difference and replace it with the power of inclusion. I pledge to look for the lonely, the isolated, the left out, the challenged and the bullied."

by Rhode Island Ponaganset High School Teacher Jennifer Paolantonio to promote an inclusive culture in their school

Finding My Way books honor children with disabilities by sharing their stories and celebrating their inclusion!

Introduction

Each Teacher's Guide focuses on one book from Finding My Way books. Discussion, vocabulary, and activities help students expand their capacity to promote inclusion and become an inclusive friend. Inclusive stories provide students the opportunity to meet and then talk about children who may be different, yet also be someone with whom they have things in common.

Discussion Starters and Classroom Activities

#1 Discussion Starter: MyaGrace had to decide what to wear. She didn't just choose the dress she liked. She thought about each dress and determined which one would be best. How did she decide?

Activity: Dances often have themes. Have students think of themes for a school dance. List their ideas on the board. Review the list and ask students' opinion about each idea before voting for the best theme. Discuss their decision-making process.

#2 Discussion Starter: MyaGrace took part in all the activities to get ready for the dance. She didn't do them all by herself. Which activities did she do with others? When have you worked with others to prepare for an activity? How did that make you feel?

Activity: Have students sit quietly and listen to a song. Then have students move their desks and dance to a song. Have students share how they felt listening (by themselves) compared to participating by dancing (interacting with others).

An Inclusive Teacher's Guide for MyaGrace Wants to Get Ready

Literacy Activities

Directions: Below are fun activities to do after reading MyaGrace's true story.

MyaGrace is excited about going to the school dance.

1. Talk about an activity you've been excited about attending.
2. Play a game where you whisper a message to the person next to you and they pass the message on. When everyone has heard the message compare what the last person heard to what was the original message. Have the message be an invitation to a special activity.

MyaGrace makes a list.

1. Make a list of lists. What kind of lists do you write? Examples are grocery lists or homework lists.
2. Make a list of what your family or class needs to do to get ready for a special activity.

MyaGrace gets ready to go to the school dance.

1. Complete the list you made to get ready for your special activity. Have fun!
2. Have a family dance. Take turns dancing to each family members favorite music.



Learn about all the Finding My Way books and discover more about the children in each story by visiting www.findingmywaybooks.com. Also, for additional fun activities to support diversity, equity, and inclusion checkout our curriculum options.