

Reading Activity for the Book 'The Hundred Dresses'

Description of educational activity:	<p>Duration: 50 minutes</p> <p>Pupils' age: 13-14 years</p> <p>Organisation of the class: frontal and in groups</p> <p>Pupils' tasks/activities:</p> <p>Starting from the story in "The Hundred Dresses", authored by Eleanor Estes, the students are divided in 4 groups which will delegate a team leader to speak for each group. During the class activity each team leader will read sections of the story. All the groups will write on posters the ideas collected after reading each section and then will make presentations based on the posters. The objectives of the activity are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To listen and analyse the read sections; • To express personal points of view; • To learn to take action at the right time; • To seek and ask for help. <p>WARM UP</p> <p>The teacher opens the activity by displaying the book and reading the title and the name of the author. S/he will emphasise that "The Hundred Dresses" is a story about bullying between youngsters and that the story contains aspects regarding bullying from the point of view of the target, the bully and the bystanders.</p> <p>PRESENTATION</p> <p>The teacher gives the students the following task: <i>The team leader of the each group will read a section of "The Hundred Dresses". Pay attention to details! Then make a poster with the ideas and measures to take for solving a difficult situation.</i></p> <p>PRACTICE</p> <p>The teacher gives all groups the books with the story and 4 flipchart sheets for each section that will be read. After reading of each section, the teacher will open discussions based on the most important issues highlighted in the text. After the discussions, the students will make the posters and each team leader will present the point of view of his/her group.</p> <p>The story will be divided in the following sections with associated objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section 1 – Chapters 1 and 2 – Objective: to
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express personal points of view and to see beyond the differences. The students will have to include in the poster: 3 things that the other children saw on Wanda, other children' perception on Wanda's behaviour and Maddie's fears.

- Section 2 – Chapter 3: Objective: to learn to take action at the right time and to seek and ask for help. The poster for this section will have to be developed based on the feelings and thoughts of the characters. The students have to be encouraged by the teacher to analyse the bystander – Maddie.
- Section 3 – Chapter 4: Objective: To learn to take action at the right time. Students will identify the anti-bullying attempt in the text and then will imagine potential following of the story if Maddie would have taken action at the right time.
- Section 4 – Chapters 5, 6 and 7: Objective: to express personal points of view and to learn to take action at the right time. Students will express personal points of view about bullying of a person who does not have the ability to understand that s/he is being bullied. The poster will be composed of different types of reasons/feelings of the girls for not speaking directly to each other (which is described at the end of the story) and the persons affected by the bullying action: just the victim? Why? Also the bully and the bystander? Why?

The teacher encourages students to have discussions after the reading of each section. After working on each poster, the teacher invites team leaders to present the posters in front of the others.

FOLLOW-UP

After the activity, the students are invited to discuss if in their school they have seen similar situations. What kind of situations do they consider to be cases of bullying? The students will be encouraged to share opinion and explain if they could intervene or not. How did they act or why they didn't? Did they have had any fears? Did they trust adults (teachers/ parents) to share with them the situation?

Evaluation and assessment method: Role play method

At the end of the class, if there is still enough time, the teacher can ask students to play the *Hundred Dresses Game* and to change the end of story by making Maddie a courageous person, taking action and stopping bullying at the right moment.

	Effect of the activity on combating bullying: the activity enable students to understand why remaining passive when witnessing bullying is not a correct and fair attitude and motivate them to take action against bullying at the right time, to seek and ask for help.
Book:	“The Hundred Dresses” – Author: Eleanor Estes
Tags:	Understanding bullying, Taking action against bullying
Objectives:	This activity intends to enable students to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Understand bullying and its causes 2. Analyse bullying and act properly 3. Adopt the “taking action against bullying” behaviour
Material:	The book “The Hundred Dresses” by Eleanor Estes, Markers, Flipchart paper
Notes for the teacher:	The activity should be planned with a reserve of additional time in case students cannot manage to perform the allocated tasks in 50 minutes.
Recommendations for additional activities:	The posters designed by students during this activity could be displayed in the school hall and during the daily break the “authors” could provide explanations about them and bullying to other students in the school and stimulate the participants to discuss and express opinions on anti-bullying measures and behaviour.