Eleanor Michaelis

Lesson: 4th Grade

Ask students about times when they have been bullied. What was the reason they were bullied? Hair color? Looks? Have students list examples. Ask if they know anyone who has been bullied because they are a girl who likes “boy things” or a boy who likes “girl things”. Ask if they know anyone has been bullied because their family is different, because their parents aren’t married, or remarried, or live with only one parent, or have two moms or two dads? Boys who wear girl clothes and girls who wear boy clothes? Girls who like girls and boys who like boys? Ask them to step into the other person’s shoes. If they don’t know anyone in a situation like that, have them imagine what it would be like if that was their situation.

Divide the students into 8 groups, giving each group one of the following books: *And Tango Makes Three; Chrysanthamum; Oliver Button is a Sissy; It’s OK to be different*

Instruct each group to create a skit based on their book and its messages, roughly summed up here as “Differences are OK, Bullying is not”. Each student must have a role – if they are not acting, they can serve as director or script writer, or another such position. Invite Kindergarten or 1st grade classes to watch students perform the skits.

/10 Student participated (peer review)

/10 Students showed understanding of book’s message

/10 Performance value – did it convey the message?