

What's Inside Matters More



TARGET AGE: Grade 2-4

KEY TAKEAWAY: What's inside matters a lot more than how we look on the outside, or any talents we have!

SUBJECTS: Art, Language Arts

INTRODUCTION

In *Ari's Awful Day* both Ari and Mainer make the mistake of judging each other. Ari judges Mainer by how he looks and his past ideas about bears, while Mainer judges Ari based on other lions he has met. They are *both* wrong! We should never judge people by what they look like or past experiences.

DISCUSSION

1. Has anyone ever been unfair to you because of how you look? How did it feel?
2. Have you ever been unfair to someone because of they look? What could you have done differently?

ART ACTIVITY #1

Draw a picture of yourself leaving a big circle on your chest. Then write three or four words that make you special. For example, friendly, courage, love, funny, kind, etc.

Share your picture with someone and tell them about these special words and why they describe you.

ART ACTIVITY #2

Randomly hand out the name of students in the class and this time have the students draw that student leaving a spot on the chest to write words that describe them on the inside.

Have them share with the person they drew and explain why they think those words describe them.

LANGUAGE ARTS ACTIVITY

Many stories have characters that don't seem to match how they act. For example, in *The Tale of Despereaux*, Despereaux, a tiny mouse, acts *very* courageously!

In the movie, *Sing!*, the character Meena is an elephant, but she is very shy! Most people would think elephants are very brave.

What first comes to your mind when we name some other animals:

- Pig – messy
- Sloth – slow
- Cheetah – fast
- Shark – dangerous
- Lion – brave
- Others?

Good stories will have surprises for the person who is reading or watching. Have the students come up with a character who does something or acts in a surprising way that you wouldn't expect.

After they finish, relate it back to the book and not judging people by how they look, by previous experiences with them, or by the "group" they are a part of.

What's Inside Matters More

Draw a picture of yourself and put words in your heart that describe you.

