

TEACHERS ACTIVITIES




Theme:


You can be anything you want to be, if you believe in yourself.

Topics For Discussion:

Self-confidence is important for success and happiness. Discuss how Grace's family helped her feel good about herself. Have students think of ways their parents, relatives, or friends encourage them. Then invite ideas for ways they can encourage others.

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Introduce the word "stereotype" and talk about how stereotyping could have prevented Grace from playing Peter Pan. Discuss situations familiar to students in which stereotypes have been broken.

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Having a role model is often inspirational and motivational. Discuss with students people whom they admire and what they would like to be able to do that this person does.

Curriculum Extension Activities:

Grace had a terrific imagination. Discuss how Grace's imagination helped her. How does having an imagination benefit us all? What would our world be like if no one had an imagination?

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Grace loved to act out stories. Working in small cooperative groups, have students dramatize favorite stories. Use stories with which they are very familiar. Keep costumes and props to a minimum, limited only to items in the classroom.

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Brainstorm a list of occupations. As students suggest items, discuss the possibility that both women and men may occupy the jobs. Use inclusive language as you write the list, e.g., flight attendant instead of stewardess, police officer rather than policeman, food server instead of waiter or waitress, etc. Have students select an occupation from the list that interests them and research that career. Encourage them to use both print and nonprint resources. Invite any family members or friends of students in those occupations into the classroom to talk about their work.

Based on the list they generated above, make a bulletin board of careers. Have students search magazines, advertising flyers, and newspapers for pictures and articles about people in these occupations.



In the story of *Amazing Grace*, Grace lives with her mother and grandmother, but there is no mention of her father. Obtain a copy of the sequel to this book, *Boundless Grace* (a **Reading Rainbow** review book), in which Grace visits her father and his new family in Africa. From both books together, students have the opportunity to learn even more about Grace. Have them make a "Personality Profile" of Grace by identifying characteristics that describe her (e.g., she has a good imagination, she never gives up, she's brave, sometimes she's afraid, she's curious, she's proud, sometimes she's jealous, etc.). For each characteristic they name, they need to provide evidence from one of the stories. All of these ideas can be put in a character web with Grace's name in the center. Write the characteristics on spokes radiating from the center and connect them to boxes that contain the justifications from the stories.



With the assistance of the library media specialist, locate some picture book biographies of accomplished women. (Use this opportunity to familiarize students with biography as a type of literature.) Overview the subjects of the biographies with students and have them choose a woman they would like to know more about. Set up a portrait gallery of the women by having students draw portraits of their chosen subjects and write captions for their drawings. Include the following information in the captions: woman's name, when she lived, where she lived, and her primary accomplishment.



Some of the stories that Grace acted out may not be familiar to the students. Either tell or read versions of stories featuring these characters to the class.



Remind students that they grow and change and learn new things constantly. Discuss things they could not do when they were smaller that they can now do. Have them make "I Can" books. On each page, they draw a picture of something they can do and complete the sentence frame, "I can _____." Bind the pages with a metal ring. On the back cover of the book, have them make a list of things they would still like to learn or be able to do. As they master items on the list, have them add a page to the book. Provide opportunities for them to celebrate each other's accomplishments as they watch the books grow.

SUPPLEMENTARY BOOKLIST:

THE HEROINE OF THE TITANIC

by Joan Blos, illus. by Tennessee Dixon (Morrow)

THE STORY OF RUBY BRIDGES

by Robert Coles, illus. by George Ford (Scholastic)

ELEANOR

by Barbara Cooney (Viking)

MISS RUMPHIUS

by Barbara Cooney (Viking)

WILMA UNLIMITED

by Kathleen Krull, illus. by David Diaz (Harcourt Brace)

STARRING MIRETTE AND BELLINI

by Emily Arnold McCully (Putnam)

THE PIRATE QUEEN

by Emily Arnold McCully (Putnam)

ZORA HURSTON AND THE CHINABERRY TREE

by William Miller, illus. by Cornelius Van Wright & Ying-Hwa Hu (Lee & Low)

RAGTIME TUMPIE

by Alan Schroeder, illus. by Bernie Fuchs (Joy Street/Little, Brown)

A YOUNG PAINTER

by Zheng Zhensun & Alice Low (Scholastic)

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