

Dear Adil



Materials

ARTHUR Trading
(Character) Cards

Vocabulary List
(optional)

Book Corner

Ada, Alma Flor	<i>I Love Saturdays y Domingos</i>
Allen, Debbie	<i>Dancing in the Wings</i>
Bunting, Even	<i>A Day's Work</i>
Choi, Yangsook	<i>The Name Jar</i>
Compestine, Ying Chang	<i>Crouching Tiger</i>
De La Peña, Matt	<i>Last Stop on Market Street</i>
Dooley, Norah	<i>Everybody Cooks Rice</i>
Dorris, Arthur	<i>Abuela</i>
Fox, Mem	<i>Whoever You Are</i>
Friedman, Ina	<i>How My Parents Learned to Eat</i>
Hamanka, Sheila	<i>All the Colors of the Earth</i>
Henkes, Kevin	<i>Chester's Way</i>
Lin, Grace	<i>Dim Sum for Everyone</i>
	<i>The Ugly Vegetables</i>
Nye, Naomi Shihab	<i>Sitti's Secret</i>
Parr, Todd	<i>It's Okay to Be Different</i>
Pomeranz, Craig	<i>Made by Raffi</i>
Raschka, Christopher	<i>Yo! Yes?</i>
Ringgold, Faith	<i>Tar Beach</i>
Tonatiuh, Duncan	<i>Dear Primo: A Letter to My Cousin</i>
Woodson, Jacqueline	<i>The Other Side</i>



LEARNING FROM OTHERS BUDDY SESSION 1:

Introduction

LITTLE BUDDIES • 15 MINUTES

Preview the story

Introduce the themes and plot of the story. You may want to say:

This is the last story we will be exploring with our Big Buddies! This week, you will be watching and listening to an interactive story called Dear Adil. There are three main characters in this story. There are two familiar characters—Arthur and Buster—and one new

character named Adil. Adil is Arthur's pen pal. Who knows what a pen pal is? <pause> A pen pal is a person who becomes a friend through letter writing or emails. Pen pals usually live far away. In this story, Arthur starts writing letters to Adil, his new pen pal in Turkey. Arthur believes things about Adil before finding out if they're true. You'll be talking with your Big Buddy about why it's important to recognize and admit when we make a mistake about someone, and how we can be respectful, curious, and open to learning about other people.

Introduce and discuss: learning from others

Dear Adil helps students understand why it's important not to make assumptions about others and to be sure that our information about others is accurate. It's also helpful to be curious about the world around us and eager to learn new things. You might say:

What do you do when you want to learn something? <pause for responses> Yes! You can look something up in a book or online, or you can talk to someone who knows more about the subject than you do. So when we learn from others, we ask questions and we listen carefully to the answers. We also need to make sure that what we learn from books or websites is true. We need to be careful not to assume <define word if needed> we know everything, especially about a country or culture or person, just because of something we heard or read.

Then ask students:

- *Is it sometimes hard to admit you don't know something? Why or why not?*
- *How does it feel when someone assumes something about you or your family or culture? What can you do?*
- *What can you do when you find out you are wrong about someone? What can happen when we make assumptions about others?*

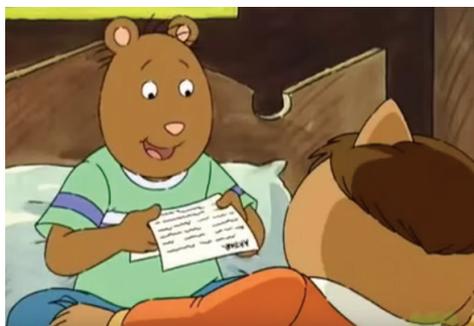
Continue with the same routines that you did for *So Funny I Forgot to Ask* (see page 30).

Explore vocabulary

You may want to define the vocabulary words students may find challenging (see Appendix). Remind them that they can always ask their Big Buddy about words they aren't familiar with.

Review communication skills

Discuss any communication or other problems that came up during the previous sessions. Review solutions and strategies as needed.





BIG BUDDIES • 20 MINUTES

Preview the story

Explain the premise and themes of *Dear Adil*.

In this story, Arthur is excited to begin exchanging letters with a new pen pal from Turkey named Adil. Arthur assumes what he read in a comic book about life in Turkey is true (even though it isn't). Arthur soon realizes that he has made a mistake and explains what happened to Adil. Once they learn the truth about each other, Arthur and Adil are able to become better friends.

Introduce and discuss: learning from others

Dear Adil helps students understand the dangers of making assumptions about other people. Talk with your students about the importance of being curious and open-minded, and willing to learn from others. Related issues include:

- *Recognizing and admitting when we don't know something*
- *Being willing to admit when we made a mistake about someone or something*
- *Trying to learn from our mistakes*
- *Being curious about the world*
- *Being open to changing our ideas about someone or something*
- *Understanding that we can learn a lot from other people, even if we don't agree with them*

You can ask questions that will help Buddies explore issues related to making assumptions and learning from others, such as:

- *Why is it sometimes hard for people to admit they don't know something?*
- *What is an assumption? Why do people often make assumptions about other people? What can happen when our assumptions are incorrect or based on faulty information?*
- *Where do we get our information about other people, countries, or cultures? What are some reliable sources for information? How does it feel when someone assumes something about you or your family or culture? What can you do?*

Continue with the same routines you did for *So Funny I Forgot to Ask* (see page 30).

Review vocabulary

Review any vocabulary words that may be unfamiliar to students and point out words that the Little Buddies may need to have defined. In addition to the vocabulary in the story, remind students to use as many ways as they can to describe their feelings.

Review communications skills

Discuss any communication or other problems that came up during the previous sessions. Review solutions and strategies as needed.

Explore *Dear Adil*

- ★ Give students an opportunity to explore the interactive story. Have the Big Buddies pair up and give students time to go through the story together. Gather the class together to review the experience and answer any questions about the content or logistics of the story.

LEARNING FROM OTHERS BUDDY SESSION 2:

Read and Talk Together

TIME: 45 MINUTES

The story should take about 20 to 30 minutes to read together. If a pair seems to have gone too far off the topic, have them tell you their answers to the most recent question, and then ask them to continue the story.

Book Corner

Display the related books in a prominent place so buddies can access them. If buddies finish early, they can choose a book to read together.

Class Discussion

Leave 10 minutes at the end of the session to bring the whole group together and lead a discussion about the story. Ask questions such as:

- *Has anyone ever had a pen pal from a different country? <pause for responses> Can you tell us something you learned about your pen pal? Was it fun having a pen pal? Why do you think it would be fun? What do you think would be hard about it?*
- *If you have never had a pen pal, do you think it would be fun to have one? Where would you like your pen pal to live? What kinds of questions would you want to ask?*
- *Has someone ever made assumptions about you that were wrong? How did you figure out that you were mistaken? What did you do about it?*
- *What are some ways we can get to know someone who is different than we are?*
- *Have you ever had a friend from another place or culture? How did you learn about one another?*

LEARNING FROM OTHERS BUDDY SESSION 3:

Reflections

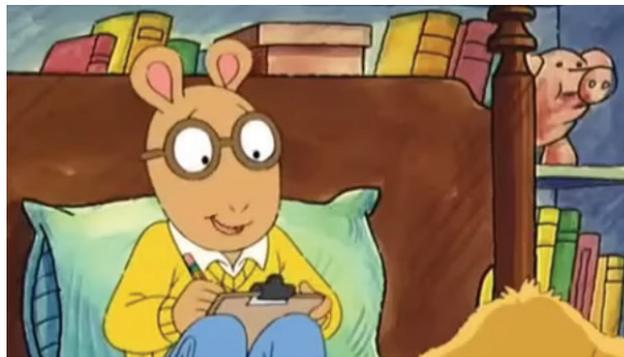
TIME: 15 MINUTES

To wrap up their exploration of the topic, students meet in their home classrooms to talk about the story and the buddy experience. Review what happened in the story. You may want to ask:

- *What were some of the things that Arthur assumed about Adil that were wrong?*
- *Where did Arthur get his information?*
- *How did Adil feel about Arthur's questions?*
- *How did Arthur know Adil was upset?*

Ask students to think about what they have learned about being respectful of and learning from people who are different from them. To help them gather their thoughts, you may want to first allow time for silent reflection through journal writing and drawing.

If you have time, you can watch *Dear Adil*, the ARTHUR episode that the story was based on, and compare it to the digital interactive story.



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