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Interactive Read Aloud
with CLASS® Concepts

Welcome to Teachstone's Interactive Reading Guide with CLASS[®] Concepts

How to use the guide:

This guide is meant to help you enhance the experience of reading with children. The ideas in the guide will help you make the most of story time, supporting children's learning and engaging with them in a meaningful way.

When planning for story time, begin by reading the book. Then, read this guide. Choose the ideas you think will be most helpful based on what you know about the children you are reading to. It is not recommended that you use all of the ideas in the guide at once, as this may disrupt the flow of the story.

What is CLASS[®]?:

CLASS stands for the Classroom Assessment Scoring System. Developed in 2008 at the University of Virginia, it is a research-driven tool used to improve how teachers interact with children every day to cultivate supportive, structured, and engaging classroom experiences.

The CLASS framework is divided into three domains: Emotional Support, Classroom Organization, and Instructional Support. Each domain is subdivided into several dimensions. This guide offers suggestions on using strategies from each of the CLASS dimensions listed below.

Emotional Support:

Positive Climate (PC)

Teacher Sensitivity (TS)

Regard for Student Perspectives (RSP)

Classroom Organization:

Behavior Management (BM)

Productivity (P)

Instructional Learning Formats (ILF)

Instructional Support:

Concept Development (CD)

Quality of Feedback (QF)

Language Modeling (LM)

COVER:

This book is titled Our Favorite Day of the Year. The author is A. E. Ali (who wrote the book) and illustrator is Rahele Jomepour Bell (who drew the pictures). The cover page shows a teacher and students sitting in a circle, talking and joining hands. I wonder what is about to happen? (PC, RSP)

TITLE PAGE:

Wow! Look at all of these amazing drawings! How would you describe each picture? I wonder what these mean? Maybe we will find out as we read the story! (RSP, QF, LM)

DEDICATION PAGE:

Let's look at the dedication page. The dedication page tells us who the author has made the book for. They write a special message for that person. There is one dedication from the author, A. E. Ali. This book is written for Adam, Alina, Musa, Eesa, and Aya. Look here at the special message from R. J. B. That's the illustrator, Rahele Jomepour Bell. The special message that Rahele puts in the book is "For Daniel, who became my best friend, even though he knew I am from another planet." (CD, LM)

FIRST DAY OF KINDERGARTEN:

Now we know who the children and teacher are from the cover page! This is Musa's first day of kindergarten and his teacher, Ms. Gupta is talking to the class. Look at this colorful classroom, let's find one or two items you find interesting. Describe the items and what you were drawn to when you saw them, was it the color, shape, size or something else that sparked your interest? Ms. Gupta is asking students to look around the room at all of the new faces they see. She states that while they may not know everyone just yet, by the end of the school year these faces will be some of their closest friends. Musa looks around and seems concerned. Do you know what it means to be concerned? It means you are unsure of something. Musa is unsure about how these unfamiliar faces are going to become his closest friends? How did you feel on your first day of school? (PC, TS, BM)

MAKING FRIENDS:

Musa and three boys are sitting around the table. I wonder what they are doing? What sort of materials are they using? Do they look like they are having fun? Ms. Gupta tells the group that one way of making new friends is by sharing things we like. Do you like sharing things you like with your friends? What are some of your favorite things to share? Ms. Gupta continues to explain that her favorite thing is the first day of school and that is her favorite day of the year. Ms. Gupta announces that for show and tell this year, the class will take turns talking about each student's favorite day of the year! Tell me about your favorite day of the year and what makes it so special? (ILF, CD)

MUSA'S FAVORITE DAY:

Musa was so excited to share his favorite day of the year, Eid. Now let's take some time to find out about Musa's favorite day. Musa teaches the class how to say EID MUBARAK. I wonder what this day is about? Can you take a guess based on the pictures? On Eid al-Fitr, Musa's family goes to the mosque to pray and then they have a huge breakfast with family and friends. Have you ever heard of a mosque? Do you have anything similar that you do with your family? (CD, LM)

MO'S FAVORITE DAY:

What is the first thing we see in this picture? I see Moshe wearing a “kippa” on his head with this name on it. I wonder why he wears this on his special day? Mo stood in front of the classroom and said, “Happy New Year! His family is preparing for the Jewish New Year of Rosh Hashanah. Let’s practice how to say Rosh Hashanah. Is this a word you have heard before? How does it feel trying to say it? Mo explained that on Rosh Hashanah his family lights candles at night and goes to the synagogue during the day with family and friends. They eat yummy challah bread and apples dipped in honey. Mo brought some to share with the class. Have you ever had honey and apples? What do you think is the most fun about the Jewish New Year of Rosh Hashanah? (ILF, CD, LM)

MOISES' FAVORITE DAY:

Moises favorite day of the year is on Christmas when his family celebrates Las Posadas. Look at all of the colorful peace flags hanging up and the star pinata. Las Posadas lasts 9 days and the house is decorated with flowers, wreaths and lanterns. They sing songs, open presents and hit the pinata. What shape would your pinata be if you could have one? Is there anything special you would put inside? (LM)

KEVIN'S FAVORITE DAY:

Kevin has a favorite scientist, Sir Isaac Newton. He discovered gravity when an apple fell on his head. How does a falling apple help a scientist discover gravity? What is gravity anyway? Do you have any guesses? Let’s take some time to chart our answers. Since Sir Isaac Newton discovered gravity with a falling apple, Kevin decided to bring a freshly baked apple pie to share with the class on his favorite day of the year, Pi Day. Have you ever heard of Pi Day? What types of things can we do on Pi Day? (CD, QF, LM)

LAST DAY OF SCHOOL:

Why are all of the children sitting in a circle with Ms. Gupta? What do you think is about to happen? This is the last day of school and Ms. Gupta asked the children to look around the classroom so all of the children looked at one another. Musa had become good friends with Moises, Mo and Kevin, just like Ms. Gupta predicted. What does it mean to predict? Look at the beautiful calendar on this page. Tell me what you see in each picture? Does it remind you of what we discussed in the story? How? This calendar represents all of the favorite days of each student. Is there one that sticks out as your favorite? How are you drawn to it? Ms. Gupta says, “This way you can always remember when we’re not together to celebrate the days that brought us together!” The final picture shows Musa laying on his bed with pictures of his new friends on his desk. Ms. Gupta was right, the faces around them did indeed become his friends. (ILF, RSP, LM)

Learn more about how CLASS® can help your program improve teacher-child interactions at www.teachstone.com or give us a call at 877-401-8007.