

# Little Allies

By Julie Kratz  
illustrations by Edward Maiello



A Children's Story about  
Inclusion, Diversity, and Becoming an Ally

**Interactive Read Aloud**  
with CLASS® Concepts

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# Welcome to Teachstone's Interactive Reading Guide with CLASS<sup>®</sup> 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<sup>®</sup>?:

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 was written by Julie Kratz and Edward Maiello created the illustrations. It is about a 4th grader named Ally and an important lesson she learned one week at her school. I wonder what she learned?

The title of the book is: Little Allies: A Children's Story about Inclusion, Diversity, and Becoming an Ally. These are some pretty big words. When people are different, some people might think things that are untrue about them and may not include them because they don't know them.

Inclusion is when people who are different feel welcome in a community where everyone else is the same. Diversity is a word that describes all of the ways people are different - skin color, gender (men, women, girls, boys), abilities, or disabilities. What are some ways that you have noticed that people are different? The word Ally is in the title, Little Allies. An Ally is someone who stands up for others who are different. Do you have any ideas about what the important lesson Ally learned might be? (TS, RSP, CD, LM)

## PAGE 9:

What do you think about what Tommy said? This makes me think of the words from the cover diversity and inclusion. What do you think? How do you think Prisha felt? (RSP, CD, LM)

## PAGE 13:

Tommy's words hurt Ally's friend Prisha's feelings. How would you feel if someone was mean to your friend? What would you do? (RSP, CD, LM)

## PAGE 15:

What do you think about what Ally said? How do you think Prisha felt to hear her say those words? What do you think Tommy was thinking at that moment? (RSP, CD, LM)

## PAGE 17:

How did Tommy's thinking change? What did he learn? Have you learned anything new? (RSP, CD, LM)

## PAGE 23

Ally's friend Henry has a disability. He learns differently than the other children in his class and sometimes needs help from a special teacher and a special class. What do you know about special teachers or special classes? (RSP, CD, LM)

## PAGE 24

It sounds like Ally learned something new about Henry this week. What did she learn? (RSP, LM)

## PAGE 29

Just like people, not all families look the same. Who do you live with? What are some ways families can be different? (PC, RSP, CD, LM)

## PAGE 31

How do you think Jack is feeling? How is this like what happened between Prisha and Tommy? (RSP, CD, LM)

## PAGE 35

What do you think it would be like to go to a school where everyone speaks a different language? How would you feel if kids teased you because you didn't always know the right words? What would you want your friends to know? (RSP, CD, LM)

## PAGE 39

Coach used birthdays to create two separate teams and made Sam feel included. How else could Coach create two teams and include Sam? (RSP, CD)

## PAGE 41

Ally still hasn't told us about the important lesson she learned in school that week. I wonder what it could be? (RSP, CD, LM)

## PAGE 45

Why do you think Ally felt uncomfortable? Has anyone ever said anything to someone else that made you feel uncomfortable? What happened? (RSP, CD, LM)

## PAGE 47

What did Tommy learn? Have you learned something new from this story? Tell me more. (RSP, LM)

## PAGE 48

We're finally going to find out what Ally learned! What do you think it could be? (RSP, CD, LM)

## PAGE 49

To be unique is to have something special that no one else has. What's unique about you? (RSP, CD, LM)

## PAGE 53

What is something you and your friends have in common? What are some things all kids have in common? (RSP, CD, LM)

## PAGE 57

What do you think it would feel like to have an ally that sticks up for you? Why do you think it is important to be an ally? (RSP, LM)

## PAGE 59

How can you stick up for kids who are different from you? (RSP, LM)

## PAGE 61

Think about a classmate that is different from you, what would you like to learn more about them? How can you find out? (RSP, CD, LM)

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Learn more about how CLASS<sup>®</sup> can help your program improve teacher-child interactions at [www.teachstone.com](http://www.teachstone.com) or give us a call at 877-401-8007.