

Value: Respect and acceptance of individual differences
Activity: Class discussion about inclusion



GENERAL GOAL

Students gain respect for the uniqueness of all human beings, regardless of their ability or appearance.

SPECIFIC GOAL

Students learn to express their feelings and opinions about persons with a disability and inclusion.

ENVIRONMENT

Classroom activity.

SUGGESTED EQUIPMENT

Story: "William the One Winged Dragon and the Castle Football World Championships" written by P. and A. Busciglio.

PEOPLE INVOLVED IN THE ACTIVITY

Session leader and assistants.

STARTING THE ACTIVITY

The session leader gathers the students around him/her, making sure that everyone sits comfortable and all students can see and hear each other.

RUNNING THE ACTIVITY

The session leader tells the students the interactive fairy tale: "William The One Winged Dragon and the Castle Football World Championships". The story consist of 10 parts and after each part, the session leader should lead a discussion about inclusion, adapting rules, prejudice etc.

GUIDELINES FOR ADAPTATION TO YOUNGER PARTICIPANTS

Use one or more animal puppets to make the story more exciting.

GUIDELINES FOR ADAPTATION TO OLDER PARTICIPANTS

The session leader provides keywords (e.g., disability, integration, inclusion, Paralympics etc.) and then uses the brainstorming method to extract possible emotions, feelings, issues, topics concerning these words.



REFLECTION

The session leader uses the story as a basis for a class discussion among the students. The inclusion of dragons with a disability in a Football game, can be used to begin a class discussion about the inclusion of persons with a disability in the school. The session leader tries to put emphasis on the uniqueness of all human beings during the discussion.

Sample questions

- How can you include an individual with a disability in your own school (different disability types)?
- How are students with a disability similar to you?
- How are students with a disability different from you?

william the one winged dragon and the castle football world championships:

Once upon a time,

William, the one winged dragon, sat with steam billowing from his nose. Left behind again, he slammed his tail against the rocky ground. His brother, Sidney, was leading Team Saw-Tooth to the Castle Football World Championships. And as usual, William was left behind in the cave with the other dragons with a disability. His companions were Ursula, a blind dragon, Horace, a dragon who could not spit fire, Geraldine, a dragon with only one leg and Uncle Dieter, a dragon with no teeth.

Discussion point #1 Do you believe it is fair that the dragons with a disability should be left behind in the cave? Why do you believe so?

William was born with only one wing and could not fly. He frowned as he flapped his wing with frustration. William thought, "If only I had a chance. If only I had a chance." He knew he could help Team Saw-Tooth to victory. And actually...he was right. Because of William's inability to fly he had become a very fast runner and a quick thinker.

Discussion point #2: Can a disability be an asset, yes or no? If so, in which way?

Meanwhile, Sidney and Team Saw-Tooth arrived at the Castle Football World Championships. Every Dragon clan across all the world was represented. From the beginning of the Castle Football World Championships, Team Saw-Tooth was in trouble. Every bounce of the ball and every flight or run of attack was defended by the opposition, Team Fire-Breath. Between games, Sidney thought of his brother William. He wanted to include William and his companions in the championships. But the rules forbid dragons with a disability to participate. Sidney thought, if only William, Horace, Geraldine and Uncle Dieter were here Team Saw-Tooth would have a real chance for victory. Though rules and equipment needed to be slightly altered during practices at home, the dragons with



a disability always gave their opponents a challenging game.

Discussion point #3: Do rules made with good intentions sometimes have bad results? And if so, is it good to change the rules to benefit all players? Why?

William said to Geraldine, "I just won't have it anymore. Our clan is stronger when we are allowed to participate in the games together as one team. We should go and have a look. Maybe we can help by giving moral support at least?" Geraldine said shyly, "Gee, I just don't know. I would be scared."

Discussion point #4: Is change for good always easy? If not, why should change happen?

Uncle Dieter replied and said, "Come on Geraldine, you never miss a ball when we play against Team Saw-Tooth and what about Horace and his incredible penalty kicks. On the ground dribbling, no one is better than William. Ursula is the best goalkeeper throughout the land as she simply uses her sense of smell and touch to locate and defend the ball. And if you don't mind me saying, when I glide through the air nobody can touch me. So, I say lets go and see. Just maybe we could help?"

Discussion point #5: Does everyone have potential to do well if we look without prejudice at each person?

The journey to the Castle Football World Championships took one full day. And when William and his companions arrived it was already looking bleak for Team Saw-Tooth being that they were on the verge of elimination. William and his companions arrived finding Sidney sitting by the fire with a long face. He looked up at William and his companions and forced a smile. Why the long face asked William? Sidney said, "Team Saw-Tooth seems to be destined for defeat. The entire team agrees. We just can't compete well enough without you and your companions."

Discussion point #6: Why is unity important for the team as a whole?

William said, "Well we came to lend moral support but wish we could play for Team Saw-Tooth. We want to be included." Sidney agreed and formed a plan of action. He would go see the referee and plead his case for inclusion if the rest of his team agreed. Sidney asked William, "What would you say to the referee to gain inclusion into the championships?"

Discussion point #7: What do you think it is to include?

William thought about it for a long time. He rubbed his belly. He scratched behind his long ears. And after a moment of intense thought William replied: "The different abilities in dragons often prove to be strengths rather than weakness. Our differences bring an assortment of unique talents to a team. And in this case it will mean a more interesting and challenging games." William continued, "Now, take Ursula who can't see. At first glance nobody would believe she could play team goalie. But you have seen her play. Her sense of smell is so acute that she can locate the ball in the air and she is never faked out of position. And also her sense of hearing allows her to move at the crack of the ball. Also spitting fire is not a requirement of the game therefore not allowing Horace to play only for the reason he is unable to spit fire is wasteful and benefits nobody. Because Geraldine only has one leg she has adapted her play by using her wings to glide through the air rather than run with her paws. Once her graceful movements are set into action, she is an asset to the team. And Uncle Dieter may be a toothless dragon but the loss of teeth has simply improved his physical condition. He is forced to eat a healthy diet of only fruit and vegetables, which is why he is the strongest player physically on the team. And me, well, because I am missing a wing and am unable to fly I have learned to run like the wind instead and this has allowed me to move on the ground better than any other dragon."

Discussion point #8: Who should support the cause of inclusion? Why?

The team agreed and Sidney went to see the referee. After a long talk, the referee was convinced that William and his companions should

be allowed to play. For Ursula dirt would be used instead of grass in the 18 yard box. And therefore she would be able to feel with her paws where she was to stand on the field. For Horace, having the inability to spit fire would no longer eliminate him from the championships. Geraldine would fly instead of run through the completion of the match and Uncle Dieter could wear false teeth. In addition, William could make use of his speedy footwork on the ground and would not be required to fly at all. The referee decided, the adaptations would not affect the games negatively but rather add an element of excitement. But the referee said, "You have no chance, for tomorrow you will be playing the reigning champions, Team Fire-Breath." The referee wished Team Saw-tooth good luck. Sidney said "thank you" and walked away with a broad smile on his face for he knew that Team Saw-Tooth had an excellent chance for victory.

Discussion point #9: What arguments can you make to persuade the referee to include the dragons with a disability?

On the morning of the championships, the sky was covered with dark clouds and rain threatened. William and his companions were nervous but confident. The plan was for William and his entire group to enter the games after half time, if necessary. The game started on a flat note for Team Saw-Tooth. The opposition scored immediately. By halftime the score was 1 to nil. It looked dreadful for Team Saw-Tooth. Sidney sat alone in the corner preparing for the second half. He had a surprise for his opponents, Team Fire-Breath. He rose and addressed the team. "It looks bleak but we have a secret weapon, William and his companions. New players will enter the championships and we will be victorious."

The ball flew through the air as the second half started. William took a pass from Uncle Dieter and dribbled with speed through each and every player from Team Fire-Breath. He scored with a bicycle tail kick that went straight past the opposition's goalie. Team Fire-Breath then managed to move the ball down the field in order to attempt one additional goal. Thanks to Ursula's fantastic save Team Fire-Breath did not succeed. Finally, Horace headed a perfect pass from Uncle Dieter straight into the goal to win the game with only a few seconds to spare. The crowd went wild! Team Saw-Tooth remained went on to win the championship. By including all members of the clan in the championships, the dragons with and without a disability were able to prove to everyone that differences are strengths which can and will accomplish victory.

Discussion point #10: Which dragon do you like and/or relate to the most and why?



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LINKS

Website: www.paralympic.org

PSD Manual: Section Two, Chapter 3

