



Book Activity Sheet

Swimmy

By Leo Lionni

Swimmy, an individual, is the only black fish in his school of red fish. After a tuna attacks the school of fish leaving Swimmy on his own, Swimmy must rely on himself to find a new school of fish. Swimmy distinguishes himself as a leader with his bravery and courage.

Things to Talk About:

Cooperation: Swimmy and his new friends overcame the “big fish” by working together as a team. Explain the concept of teamwork and ask your child about the kinds of things he or she likes to do with other people. You can also use the example of completing chores together. The job is always easier when you have someone there to rely on for help.

Follow the Leader: Swimmy was the little fish with the vision to solve a big problem. Try playing the game “Follow the Leader.” Ask your child which role he/she likes the best—being the leader in charge of decision making, or being the follower who has to act like a copycat? Which role is easier? Which role is more challenging? Why?

Diversity: Swimmy doesn't look like any of the other fish. Talk to your child about the similarities and differences between Swimmy and the other fish in the story. Help your child to understand that although not everyone looks or acts the same, that we all have things we enjoy or that we are good at doing.

Activities to Do:

1. Crayon & Watercolor Art

You Will Need: paper, crayons, watercolor paints, paint brushes

What to Do: First have the students create an under the sea picture using crayons. Then let them water color over the crayon. The crayon stands out shiny under the water color.

2. Fingerprint Fish

You Will Need: red washable ink pad, black washable ink pad, red & black fine-tipped markers, white or blue construction paper

What to Do: After reading the book have the children try this cooperative art activity. Using a red ink pad the students can make fingerprints on their white or blue construction paper. Then the kids can use a red fine tip marker to make fins and tails to form small fish. They must place the fingerprint fish so that they form a big fish just like in the book. Each child will need to make one black fingerprint and add fin and a tail with the black fine-tipped marker for the “eye.”

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