

Comrades

Theme: Helping others while considering your ability to help affectively!

Origin: The Blackfoot tribe of the Midwest plains

The story of a young hunter by the name of Rabbit, finds a young boy being beating by an evil nemesis, Double-Face, whom he kills and takes the baby to safety. After Rabbit nurses the young boy back to good health, the young child transforms into Rabbit's twin brother upon which they make a pact to be comrades for life. As Rabbit and his twin set out in different paths on their journeys, Rabbit encounters a man stuck in a tree who happens to be in a great deal of pain. Rabbit reaches out and takes the place of the man and is so overwhelmed by the great pain he calls for his comrade who instantaneously frees Rabbit. Rabbit continues his journey when he happens upon an old man with no eyes in a teepee. Rabbit takes pity on the old man and gives him his eyes so he can go out and see the world. In the teepee are two ropes and a sack of meat. After Rabbit has eaten the meat, he follows the first rope to the water for a drink when upon stooping over the rope breaks and he falls in. After he has regained land, he follows the other rope to the woods to gather sticks for firewood when suddenly the rope breaks and he is lost in the woods. Scratched, beat up, and lost, Rabbit calls his twin for help. Immediately his twin gives Rabbit back his sight and instructs him to be cautious on how you help people because you can't be very effective in helping others if you can't help yourself.



Storytelling Session Plan

Audience: Fifth graders at Cone Elementary School Greensboro, NC

Step 1.

Introduced myself by telling the children my name, what school I go to, what I'm majoring in, age, the class I'm in, and why I'm there telling the story.

Step 2.

I defined tolerance as, "helping others as much as possible without being rash or unwise in your decisions." I asked the students if they understood and if they had any questions I tried to give an example of what I was trying to convey to them.

Step 3.

I gave the introduction to the story by telling it where it came from and gave a short synopsis of the story itself.

Step 4.

I started the story and when I got to the point where Double Face is beaten the young child, I asked the student why they thought that this man was doing that. The responded in a confused and bewildered manner and gave answers that were as followed:

"Because he was mean."

"He didn't know how to behave in a good way."

I also asked the students if they thought such violence was right and many replied in a hasty no almost in unison. Each child reacted politely and waited for their turn to speak by raising their hands.

Step 5.

After the telling, I started a small discussion with the class by asking them several questions that related to the story. Questions and answers were as followed:

Q. Why do you think Rabbit did what he did?

A. He was trying to help people and be a good person.

Q. Was it right for him to do those things?

A. Yes and No...he tried to help but he didn't do a good job because he couldn't help other people if he couldn't help himself.

Q. Why do you think his twin said what he said at the end of the story?

A. He was trying to look out for his brother.

Step 6.

After the discussion, I passed out paper and had the children draw or write their favorite parts of the story or what they had learned from the story. As they worked I went to each student individually and asked how they were doing and asked them what their work was about. Many students drew pictures of their favorite scenes and were eager and happy to show me their pictures. I gave each one a very good remark for doing such a good job.

Step 7.

In this step I brought the kids back together for some closing questions that related to how the kids felt about the story and what they learned during the course of my visit.

Questions included:

- Q. Did you enjoy the story?
- Q2. Did you feel like you learned anything today?
- Q3. If so, how do you think the story will help you?
- Q4. Will you help others by telling them this story?

The answers the children gave to these questions were very agreeable to my visit. They wanted me to come back and tell more stories and wanted to tell the story I told them to others. I felt that the kids got a lot out of the story and my visit and vice versa.

Closing

After the storytelling session, I gave my thanks to the teacher and the kids for allowing me to come and visit and allow me to share my story with them. I also encouraged them to tell this story to other people and help teach them about tolerance.

About the Teller

My name is Daniel Lassiter. I'm 20 years old and enrolled in my second year at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. I am a political science major who hopes after school I plan to get a master's degree in diplomacy and work with humanitarian efforts. I enjoy reading, writing, movies, and music. In my spare time I work as a DJ for WUAG, the college radio station here at UNCG.