

My Princess Boy by Cheryl Kilodavis

Grade: K-2nd grade

OVERVIEW

My Princess Boy is the story of a young boy who likes to dress up in girls' dresses. His family and friends are supportive but throughout the book he is made fun of at various times by others. Told from the mother's perspective, this book promotes compassion by provoking readers to think about their own reactions if faced with a similar situation.

OBJECTIVES

By the end of the lesson, students will:

- Explore an example of gender diversity
- Build classroom community by understanding the importance of compassion and accepting differences
- Discuss the negative impacts of bullying and how to be an ally

STANDARDS

- **California Health Education Content Standard 1 – 1.7.M (2nd grade):** Discuss how to show respect for similarities and differences between and among individuals and groups.
- **CCSS Speaking and Listening:** Comprehension and Collaboration #1, Presentation of Knowledge and Ideas #4-6

TIME

One 30 minute lesson

- This lesson would be best following one or more lessons about differences and understanding diversity. For example, "Finding Strengths in Our Differences." See: <http://www.healthiersf.org/LGBTQ/InTheClassroom/curriculum.html>

RESOURCES / MATERIALS NEEDED

- My Princess Boy by Cheryl Kilodavis
- Whiteboard or chart paper, markers

VOCABULARY

Define key words for discussion:

- **Acceptance:** Being supportive, kind or friendly to others. Accepting other people and their differences.
- **Compassion:** Being a good friend to someone when that person needs it. Awareness and kindness for other's feelings/emotions/experience.
- **Unique:** Something or someone very special.

CLASSROOM PROCEDURE

Ground rules: Introduce or review classroom rules in order to create a safe place for students to discuss the book. Consider using the ground rules listed below:

- Respect other people in the class
- One person speaks at a time
- Everyone has the “right to pass” if someone doesn’t want to talk
- Everyone will have a chance to speak

Introduction: Differences

Post and discuss the vocabulary words for this lesson. Emphasize compassion and explain to students that you are going to read a story about someone who was made fun of for being different. Ask students as think-pair-share if they can think of a time when someone was made fun of for being different or not fitting in. Record their answers on chart paper or whiteboard.

Things kids are made fun of (for):
<i>sometimes kids laugh when I miss at soccer</i>
<i>sometimes kids laugh at another student when they don't know the answer</i>
<i>when they wear certain clothes</i>

To begin building their sense of compassion, ask students: *What do you think it feels like to be made fun of in those situations?*

Read Aloud

1. Introduce the book, Princess Boy.
 - *Keeping our ideas about the compassion in mind, let's listen to this child's story and see how people around him react and if they show compassion or treat him meanly.*
2. Read Princess Boy, pausing for discussion questions along the way
 - (p.1-4) Princess Boy is introduced. He is a happy 4 year old with a cool older brother. *What are your thoughts about Princess Boy so far?*
 - (p.6) His dad tells him he looks pretty and twirls him and hugs him. *What do you notice about his family? Does his family show compassion? How do you know?*
 - (p.10) When Princess Boy wants to buy girls things at the store people laugh and stare. *Why do you think they do that?*
 - (p.22) Stop for a think-pair-share (K-1: consider a whole group discussion) to answer the questions on this page. *If you see a Princess Boy, how will you treat him? Will you laugh at him, call him a name, play with him, like him for who he is?*
3. Compassion
 - Review the words **compassion** and **acceptance**, and ask students who showed either for Princess Boy in the book and who didn't [*brother showed compassion by dancing with him, dad did by telling him he was pretty in his dress. The people in the store did not when they laughed and stared*]
 - **EL Sentence Frames:** The _____ shows compassion by _____.
The _____ doesn't show compassion by _____.

Showing Compassion

Revisit the list that was created before reading of the things that kids are made fun of for. Ask students how they could show compassion in each different situation and chart their responses. Structure as a think-pair-share and follow with a whole group share-out.

Things kids are made fun of for:	How I can show compassion:
<i>sometimes kids laugh when I miss at soccer</i>	<i>I will not get mad when my team loses or misses. I will always say, "nice try."</i>
<i>sometimes kids laugh at another student when they don't know the answer</i>	<i>I will help struggling students find the right answer.</i>
<i>when they wear certain clothes</i>	<i>I will not laugh and tell students who laugh that that is not okay</i>

Closure and Wrap Up

Compassion can be a difficult concept for students at this age. Being a good friend to your friends is easy but being compassionate means being a good friend to someone in need, whether or not they are your good friend; this requires effort to notice when someone is in need and not just walk away. Over the course of the next few weeks, point out daily examples of compassion as you see them and ask students if they can name any themselves.

ASSESSMENT

The objective will have been met if the student is able to:

- Define compassion and give 2-4 examples of how to be a good friend.
- This can be done verbally, a drawing or role play.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Support Services for LGBTQ Youth, SFUSD

www.healthiersf.org/lgbtq

Keywords: LGBTQ family, gender, diversity, curriculum, approved vocabulary

Transgender Youth Rap

Link: <https://youtu.be/bWPEvmwG9Vw>.

Keywords: transgender, trans, youth, rap,

Teaching Tolerance: Gender Diversity Lessons

<http://www.tolerance.org/>

Keywords: gender, equity, bullying, lessons, diversity

Trans Kids Purple Rainbow Foundation

<http://www.transkidspurplerainbow.org/>

Keywords: I am Jazz, book, videos, stories, trans kids, Jazz Jennings