



Big AI

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Activity Guide

BIG AL

Written and illustrated by Mercer Mayer

Ages: All ages

Themes: Friendship, Acceptance, True to oneself

Total playing time: Approximately 21 minutes

SUMMARY

In a tale that emphasized the importance of character, rather than appearance, Big Al, a knobby, gnarly fish, has trouble getting other fish to judge him on his merits but finds a way to show his true colors.

OBJECTIVES

- Students will make ASL - image - text connections.
- Students will learn the value of friendship and independence.
- Students will expand their ASL vocabulary by 20 new signs.

BEFORE VIEWING DISCUSSION

- Ask the children what kind of fish live in the sea?
- Discuss the many different kinds of fish and that each one looks and behaves differently.
- Do children look different?
- Do you behave different from each other?
- Discuss the importance of accepting others even though they might be different.
- Is it OK to tease people who are different?

AFTER VIEWING ACTIVITIES

Story Retention:

- Step through the 10-question quiz independently or in a group gaining consensus on the right answers.
- Have young readers describe their favorite scenes on the video and include 1 or more signs from that scene in their explanation.
- What did Big Al do to try and make new friends?

- Did Big Al change his colors?
- At the end of the story did Big Al have lots of friends?

Signing Practice

- Review and practice the ASL vocabulary.
- Ask the students what additional signs they learned while watching the story.
- Sit in a circle and have each student demonstrate a sign. Ask the other students to copy and guess what sign it is.

Spelling Practice:

- Simultaneously voice and sign various words from the story or vocabulary list while the students spell the signed word.
- Review the vocabulary 1 word at a time asking students to sign the word as it is signed on the monitor.

Life experience:

- Have the students been to the ocean?
- Do they like to swim?
- Do they sometimes get teased or tease others?
- How does that make them feel?

Other:

- Complete all workbook activities

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A CREATURE WAS STIRRING, by Carter Goodrich

A POCKET FOR CORDUROY, by Don Freeman

BIG AL, by Andrew Clements, illustrated by Yoshi

BLUE BURT AND WIGGLES, by Derek Anderson

FIVE LITTLE MONKEYS JUMPING ON THE BED, by Eileen Christelow

GLADYS GOES OUT TO LUNCH, by Derek Anderson

GOODNIGHT MOON, by Margaret Wise Brown. Pictures by Clement Hurd

LITTLE QUACK, by Lauren Thompson, illustrated by Derek Anderson

THE STORY OF FERDINAND, by Munro Leaf, illustrated by Robert Lawson.

THERE'S SOMETHING IN MY ATTIC, by Mercer Mayer

Flash Cards

Directions: Cut out flash cards and have children practice signing the words. They might need to review the DVD vocabulary.

CLEVER

GILLS

CRY

LONELY

FISHERMAN

LOOKS LIKE

FORGET

NONE

FRIENDLY

ROW OF TEETH

SALTY

SOMETHING HAPPENED

SAND

STUCK

SCARY

SWEET

SCHOOL OF FISH

TEARS

SNEEZED

TRUST

Complete the sentences

Directions: Complete the sentences. If the students need help challenge them by demonstrating the proper sign before showing them the written word. All words used are from the vocabulary/flashcard list.

1. So Big Al was _____ and cried big
_____ into the big salty sea.
2. But Big Al had _____.
3. But Big Al was also very, very , _____.
4. Big Al even changed his color one day so he could
look like he belonged to a _____
passing by.
5. Just when Big Al was starting to be sure that he would
never have a single friend, _____.
6. He was _____!
7. Those _____ took one look at him, and
threw him right back into the ocean.
8. When the clouds of _____ cleared away, all the
other fish were gone.
9. Big Al _____ all about being _____,
and he forgot all about being sad.

Word Scramble

Directions: Unscramble the words below. To help the students you might consider demonstrating the proper sign before showing the correctly spelled word.

1. yrc: _____

2. nads: _____

3. enon: _____

4. kcstu: _____

5. sraet: _____

6. tsurt: _____

7. hsierfman: _____

8. ytsla: _____

9. ewest: _____

10. eeezsnd: _____

Word Cross

Directions: Find the words hidden in the grids below. The list of words hidden is listed to the left of each grid. The first grid is easier.

CLEVER
CRY
FORGET
GILLS
NONE
SALTY
SAND
SWEET
TEARS
TRUST

R	U	W	L	S	G	Y	S	M	M
N	E	V	L	A	I	T	Y	K	Q
A	N	V	L	N	L	L	Y	P	I
E	I	O	E	D	L	A	R	Y	T
F	H	L	N	L	S	S	C	L	E
S	O	E	G	E	C	B	J	O	E
Y	R	R	L	A	I	T	Z	S	W
R	V	A	G	V	D	M	G	H	S
X	E	Q	E	E	T	R	U	S	T
C	Z	S	V	T	T	F	U	A	Z

CLEVER
CRY
FISH
FISHERMAN
FORGET
FRIENDLY
GILLS
HAPPENED
LIKE
LONELY
LOOKS
NONE
ROW
SALTY
SAND
SCARY
SCHOOL
SNEEZED
SOMETHING
STUCK
SWEET
TEARS
TEETH
TRUST

F	F	J	V	O	H	R	K	D	N	K	P	E	G	T
Z	I	G	V	Y	O	T	F	H	E	D	S	G	I	R
F	R	S	P	O	T	R	S	H	S	Z	N	U	L	U
R	O	W	H	C	I	L	Q	Y	O	R	E	A	L	S
P	D	E	N	E	P	P	A	H	M	E	U	E	S	T
P	D	H	N	C	R	O	T	S	E	V	A	K	N	L
U	H	D	G	Q	M	M	Y	Y	T	E	M	Y	O	S
S	L	O	N	E	L	Y	A	E	H	L	R	O	T	M
Y	C	H	T	E	E	T	W	N	I	C	K	E	K	J
W	T	H	S	W	E	E	T	K	N	S	G	C	V	Z
Y	Y	E	O	U	G	F	E	W	G	R	U	J	S	P
S	R	E	A	O	K	K	E	O	O	T	H	M	S	L
A	A	K	H	R	L	C	I	F	S	Z	S	I	W	N
D	C	A	Y	J	S	E	N	O	N	P	I	U	J	Z
C	S	H	V	T	R	J	N	I	E	E	F	J	H	E

Draw by Numbers

