BOOK LEAGUE CLASSROOM

The Girl Who Never Made Mistakes

WATCH THE READ ALOUD

Written by Mark Pett and Gary Rubinstein, illustrated by Mark Pett ·
Grades PreK to 3

Nobody is perfect, and trying to be perfect takes the fun out of life. Mistakes are a normal part of learning and playing.

BEFORE YOU READ

Ask. How do you feel when you make a mistake in front of other people?

Listen for. As we read, notice what Beatrice says no to because she is afraid of making a mistake.

TALK ABOUT IT

1. What three things does Beatrice juggle at the talent show? Remembering
2. Why does Beatrice say no when her friends ask her to skate? Understanding
3. Beatrice laughs at her big mistake. What else can you do or say to yourself when you make one? Applying
4. How are Beatrice and her brother Carl different? Who seems to be having more fun at the start, and why? Analyzing
5. Was the talent show mistake a good thing or a bad thing for Beatrice? Explain your thinking. Evaluating
6. Write about what Beatrice might try next now that she is not afraid of mistakes. Creating

LOOK CLOSER

Look at the crowd in the moment right after the mistake, then again a page later. How does the illustrator show the mood changing?

WORDS TO KNOW

mistake something done in a way that turns out wrong.

stunned so surprised that you cannot move or speak.

juggling tossing and catching several things in the air again and again.

auditorium a big room where people sit to watch a show.

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WRITE ABOUT IT

Write about a mistake you made that turned out fine, or even funny.

PreK to grade 1: draw a mistake you made and tell an adult what you learned from it.

Grade 3 and up: retell the talent show from Humbert the hamster's point of view.

MAKE IT: MISTAKE MAKERS CLUB

You need. Paper, crayons or markers, your writing hand and your other hand.

1. Talk about how Beatrice missed out on fun because she was afraid to get something wrong.
2. Everyone draws a picture using the hand they do not normally write with. Wobbly lines are expected.
3. Share the drawings and give each one a round of applause.
4. Each child finishes this thought out loud or on paper: one thing I will try even though I might mess up.

THE STORY IN BRIEF

Beatrice Bottomwell has never made a mistake. She matches her socks, feeds her hamster Humbert on time and her juggling act has won the school talent show three years in a row. People in town do not even use her name. Her little brother Carl makes mistakes all day long and loves it. One Friday Beatrice slips in cooking class and nearly drops the eggs. The near miss worries her so much that she will not go skating with her friends, because she might fall. That night at the talent show she juggles Humbert, a water balloon and a shaker that turns out to hold pepper. Humbert sneezes, the balloon bursts and Beatrice is soaked on stage. After a long silent moment she laughs, and the crowd laughs with her. The next day she wears odd socks, makes a messy lunch and goes skating.

WHAT THIS BOOK BUILDS

CASEL SKILLS

Self Awareness. Beatrice notices how much the fear of mistakes is worrying her.

Self Management. She handles an embarrassing moment by choosing to laugh.

Relationship Skills. Letting go of perfect lets her join her friends and her brother in play.

CHARACTER STRENGTHS

Humor. Laughing at herself turns a disaster into a happy memory.

Bravery. She goes skating even though she will fall.

Zest. She starts trying messy, silly things just for the joy of it.

COMMON CORE ELA

K RL.K.1, RL.K.3, RL.K.7, SL.K.1, W.K.3

Grade 1 RL.1.2, RL.1.3, RL.1.7, SL.1.1, W.1.3

Grade 2 RL.2.2, RL.2.3, RL.2.7, SL.2.1, W.2.3

Grade 3 RL.3.2, RL.3.3, RL.3.6, SL.3.1, W.3.3

FIND IT BY

Themes Mistakes, Perfectionism, Growth mindset, Laughing at yourself

Season Any time

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