

Learning social skills through fictional characters

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This unit utilizes fictional stories to help students learn social skills. The function of fiction in the unit is to serve as a catalyst for students to relate to the characters in the stories and act as they do in given social scenarios. The concept of theory of mind is brought to light to help readers understand that some students have difficulties relating any emotions to other naturally. Some students need to be explicitly taught how to be empathetic, how to compliment others, how to use kind words. The activities in the unit are geared towards students that have social deficits in the area of feelings and relating to peers. The activities in the unit help students develop the concept of empathy, and the students are given the opportunity to share out real life examples of how to be empathetic in specific scenarios. Students will create a paper chain of kindness as a culminating activity. The chain will have examples of how students in the class were kind, and also have examples of how students feel when they are happy, proud, excited, or loved. The unit can be adjusted for various grade levels.