



The Story of The Can't That Could

by Joan C. Yingling, Illustrated by Ana Sebastian

Topics for Discussion

BEFORE reading the story:

Ask your audience to share something they couldn't do a few months ago that they can now do easily.

Ask them how it was that they learned to do that? Did they get it the first time? How many tries did it take? How did it feel when they finally succeeded?

Throughout our lives we will face challenges. Even grownups face challenges. How we approach those challenges is important.

DURING the story:

When we first meet Can't, how do you think he's feeling?

How do you know that's how he is feeling?

Why do you think he feeling that way?

Is it that the Could's aren't playing with him?

Is it possible they haven't noticed him or maybe they don't realize he would like to be include?

What can we do if we are feeling excluded?

What can we do when we see someone else is being excluded?

Notice how the Could's all look so different from each other.

Why do you think Can't's reflection in the pond is different from how he is feeling.

What is the Elf's advice?

When Can't thinks back to when he couldn't tie his shoes, or solve the math problem or shoot a basket, how do you think he was feeling?

How do you know that's how he is feeling?

Do you think Can't is trying his best?

Do you think maybe he was being a bit lazy?

Do we sometimes say we “can’t” when we just want someone else to do something for us?

Maybe Can’t was trying his best. Do you sometimes feel frustrated when trying to do something new that is challenging?

When we feel frustrated, what can we do to change how we are feeling?

Now that Can’t is able to do the very same things he couldn’t do the day before, what changed to make that so?

Did he change his color? Did he grow wings or horns in order to look like one of the Could’s?

This is where you really want to prompt your audience to realize that all he did was change his mindset from “I can’t” to “I can” and try again until he was successful. With a positive mindset, we are more likely to be successful at what we are trying to learn or do.

How does it feel when we accomplish something we’ve been trying to do?

Notice the reflection in the pond Is now truly how Can’t is feeling.

As Can’t is again looking at his reflection in the pond, how do you think he is feeling now?

How do you know that’s how he is feeling?

At the end of the story, what is Can’t doing?

AFTER reading the story:

What is a challenge you are currently facing?

Create an affirmation for the specific challenge like “I am a really good swimmer.” Or “I am really good at riding my two-wheel bike.”

On the back cover is a quote from Henry Ford. Talk about the meaning of the quote and the importance of adopting a positive attitude in all we do.

I hope these topics help you explore and enjoy The Story of The Can’t That Could even more.

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