

ELF-CARE CLASSROOM GUIDE



32 Pages, Aprox 900 words

Genre:

Action Adventure,, Fairytale
Retelling , Rhyming verse

Age Level:

Read aloud. Most suited for ages 6 -8

NZ Standards:

To be completed.

Information about the book:

- Fairytale Fraud Story Series
- Author: Katie Pye
- Illustrator: Magnus Blomster
- Publisher: HeadStart Thinking

Overview:

Grunting and groaning, moping and moaning, three elves discover that shoemaking is not as simple as it appears.

Use this endearing 'Elves and the Shoemaker' retelling to kickstart a healthy conversation with kids about resilience and how to support themselves through struggle.

Struggle Vocabulary

- Frustration
- Despair
- Moped
- Grief

Other new vocabulary

- Prodded
- Impatient
- Deformed
- Coaxed
- Merriment

Additional Material

Elf-Care has 'Behind the Scenes' material in the book with story questions, action ideas, key messages and memory mottos .

The Fairytale Fraud website also includes:

- Peek's Fairytale Journal
- ADD
- Additional questions

**Teach children about
resilience**

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GETTING READY TO READ

1. Introduce the concept and vocabulary:

- What are some new things you have tried recently?
- Have you ever found something to be trickier than you expected?
- What might people feel if something is tricky?
- Why do we need to learn tools to deal with tricky situations?
- What do you think a fraud is?

2. Connect children's past experience with the book

- What do they know about the traditional *Elves and the Shoemaker* story?
- Look at the cover. Call attention to the picture and title. What do they think the story is about? Flip to the back cover and ask again.
- Read the copy. What do they think might happen?

3. Be aware of the following text features:

- The book is in rhyming verse.
- The elves and the shoemaker are each facing struggles. There may be children who are also struggling. Reiterate that everyone struggles and we can learn tools to help. Point out where they can get help, if needed.
- New vocabulary words are introduced - see the list above

READING THE BOOK

Story questions

- Why were the elves so excited about the stranger coming to the woods?
- What was it that frustrated the elves? (Talk about expectations)
- Who can remember what the ELF-Care tool is? What do you think each point means?
- How did the ELF-Care plan change things for the elves?
- Why was Nick's leather so special for him and making the baby shoes so hard?
- Why do you think the magic happened when Nick laid his shoes down?

Notice the emotions

A number of emotions have been woven into the story. See how many emotions students can find.

Answers include: anger, frustration, hope, grief, joy.



Teach children about resilience

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RESILIENCE

- Encourage ourselves - create our own memory mottos to support ourselves through struggle.
- Group time - Discuss that everyone struggles. Brainstorm different places you can go to for help.
- Discuss self talk - Display the picture of the elves, frustrated. What might they be feeling and what might he be saying to himself? Display the picture of Nick, struggling. What might they be feeling and what might he be saying to himself?
- Chaos time! - See how long you can get around the circle playing an 'and then - so' game. Start with something innocuous like, 'Joni got out the eggs to bake a cake'. In a circle, take turns making the scenario worse or better. E.g. player 1 - AND THEN... the eggs slipped out of her hand and crashed to the ground. Player 2 - SO... they decided to make an eggless cake.
- Brainstorm questions - Brainstorm the types of questions we might want to ask ourselves about social media posts.
- Practice scenarios - discuss scenarios whereby different fairytale characters struggle. You could use other Fairytale Fraud stories for ideas. Discuss how the ELF-Care tools could help the characters.
- Reward - set out some kind of incentive or reward for children persevering during the week or month.
- Read - Recipe for Disaster and Breaking News, two related Fairytale Fraud stories about asking for help when you need it and coping through change. Look out for 'Oh No! It's Snow', a Fairytale Fraud story underway about getting through worry.

MUSIC

- Make up a tune or rap to remember the ELF-Care tools.

WRITING

- The villagers woke up to a surprise! Write a newspaper article about it.
- Write a police report about the unexpected disappearance of the shoemaker. Where do they think he has gone?
- What happens next? Write a story that picks up from where *Elf-Care* finishes. Choose whether to base it in the North Pole or in Myra, the village Nick was from.

SCIENCE

- Study what happens in your brain when you hit challenges or stress. Learn things that help your brain help you!
- Create an ambitious experiment or task - tell the children it is ambitious because it is all about practicing ELF-Care tools.

ART/CRAFT

- Create a poster to display your own memory mottos.

