

The friendship picnic



Positive Ending

KEY CONCEPT/ DISADVANTAGE

Diversity

OBJECTIVES

1. Promote openness to cultural diversity through food and traditions.
2. Encourage inclusive behaviors in shared social activities.
3. Foster curiosity and respect for classmates' backgrounds.
4. Highlight the emotional impact of participation and acceptance.

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION FOR ENDING 1

1. Why was it important for the main character to try everyone's food?
2. How did Amir feel when his couscous was tasted and appreciated?
3. What can food teach us about people and where they come from?
4. How can we make everyone feel proud of their culture and contributions?

SUGGESTIONS FOR ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- Organize a classroom "International Food Day" where students share something special from home.
- Watch: "What If Everybody Did That?" read aloud — discuss choices and group impact.
- Create a class "Culture Cookbook" — students draw or write about a dish from their family.
- Set up a "Try Something New" challenge to encourage curiosity and open-mindedness.
- Use Storybird to have students create their own illustrated stories about trying and sharing traditional foods from different cultures, fostering creativity and empathy through storytelling.

The friendship picnic



Negative Ending

KEY CONCEPT/ DISADVANTAGE

Diversity

OBJECTIVES

1. Explore the feelings of being excluded or unacknowledged.
2. Help students reflect on the value of stepping outside their comfort zones.
3. Discuss the unintentional harm caused by dismissing others' cultures or efforts.
4. Encourage compassion through self-reflection and awareness of others' emotions.

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION FOR ENDING 1

1. How did Amir and the others feel when their food wasn't tried?
2. What might have made the main character hesitate?
3. What could the character do next time to make their friends feel included?
4. How can we support each other in trying unfamiliar things?

SUGGESTIONS FOR ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- Reflection journal prompt: "A time I tried something new—and how it felt."
- Role-play: Invite students to act out a picnic where everyone brings something different.
- Create a "Respect Recipe" — a list of ingredients for kindness and inclusion.
- Group storytelling: Write a sequel where the student tries the food next time and builds stronger friendships.
- Use Storybird to have students write and illustrate a story about the student from Morocco feeling left out at the picnic, and how classmates can learn to include everyone next time, promoting empathy and understanding.