

THE STAMMERING MOUSE

A story about DIVERSITY



Positive Ending

KEY CONCEPT/ DISADVANTAGE

Diversity

OBJECTIVES

- To promote self-acceptance and confidence, by teaching each pupil that everyone has unique strengths, even if they struggle with certain challenges and showing that differences, such as stammering, do not define a person's worth
- To encourage kindness and empathy, by helping pupils understand how teasing and mocking can hurt others and encouraging them to be supportive and kind to those who face difficulties.
- To highlight the power of different talents, by showing that people (or animals, in the story) have diverse gifts—one may struggle in one area but shine in another and teaching that intelligence and creativity come in many forms.
- To build resilience against bullying and criticism, by encouraging pupils to focus on their strengths instead of letting negative comments discourage them and teaching them how to respond to bullying in a positive and assertive way.

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION FOR POSITIVE ENDING

- How does Şori feel about his stammering at the beginning of the story?
- Why do the other mice laugh at Şori? How do you think that makes him feel?
- How does Şori feel before going on stage? What gives him the courage to continue reading?

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QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION FOR POSITIVE ENDING

- How does the audience react while Şori reads? Why do they change their opinion about him?
- Why is it important to focus on a person's talents instead of their challenges?
- How does the audience's reaction help Şori feel proud of himself?
- Have you ever been afraid to do something in front of others? How did you handle it?

SUGGESTIONS FOR ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

☀ Activities

1. **Role-Play Scenarios** - Have pupils act out the story.
2. **Public Speaking Challenge** - Have pupils take turns reading a short passage aloud to build confidence. Encourage supportive listening, just like Şori's audience learned to do.
3. **"Words Matter" Discussion** - Create a word cloud made out of encouraging words to say to Şori, by using **WordArt**, platform available in our Digital Tools Collection. Create a class "Wall of Encouragement."
4. **Draw the Knight and Dragon** - Since Şori's story was about a knight overcoming a dragon, ask pupils to draw their own version of the knight, representing someone overcoming obstacles.

📖 Books to Read

1. **"I Talk Like a River" by Jordan Scott** - A beautifully illustrated book about a boy with a stammer, who finds comfort in nature.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jHcZVbSWbA4&ab_channel=CBeebies
2. **"Giraffes Can't Dance" by Giles Andreae** - A fun story about a giraffe who learns that being different is okay.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zzb5Acl-n70&ab_channel=vancemo

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Negative Ending

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OBJECTIVES

- To analyse how the audience's reaction influences Şori's decision to stop reading and run away.
- To develop empathy by understanding how humiliation and exclusion affect self-esteem.
- To reflect on how laughter at someone's expense can discourage them from trying again.
- To understand the importance of creating a safe and supportive environment for people with different challenges.

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION FOR ENDING 2

1. Why did Şori run away instead of finishing his story?
2. How do you think Şori felt when the other mice laughed at him?
3. What could the other mice and rats have done differently to support Şori, instead of laughing at him?
4. How might this experience change the way Şori feels about public speaking in the future?
5. Can you think of a time when you or someone you know felt embarrassed while speaking in front of others? How did they handle it?

SUGGESTIONS FOR ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Activities:

1. Public Speaking Practice

Organize a class "storytelling time" where pupils can read a short passage aloud. Encourage the class to cheer them on and practice creating a safe space for everyone to speak without fear of judgment.

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2. "Supportive Audience" Activity

Have pupils work in pairs. One pupil tells a short story or talks about a hobby, and the other pupil listens attentively and gives positive feedback. Discuss how it felt to be supported.

Books to read:

1. "I Am Enough" by Grace Byers - A book that focuses on self-acceptance, kindness, and the importance of loving who you are, no matter what.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2DbYEC3T52Y&ab_channel=StorieswithStar

2. "The Big Umbrella" by Amy June Bates - A story about inclusion and how we can create a welcoming space for everyone, no matter their differences.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mY9akFivHTU&ab_channel=LWLEducation

Videos to watch:

- "How to Be a Good Friend" (Sesame Street) - A fun video with the characters from Sesame Street that teaches kids how to be kind and supportive friends.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4ai7ckER2os&ab_channel=SesameStreet