



Danny and the Dinosaur: Too Tall

By Syd Hoff

GRL J

ABOUT THE BOOK:

Danny's dinosaur friend is sad because he is too tall to do things other people and animals can do, like fit through a door and sleep in a bed. Danny tries to cheer up his friends by showing him that some zoo animals are also tall, but the dinosaur only feels better when his height enables him to save a man who gets trapped in a tall crane.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Why is Danny's dinosaur friend sad? What can others do that his dinosaur friend cannot?
2. What is Danny's reaction to his friend's feelings? How does Danny attempt to make his dinosaur friend feel better?
3. How does the man in the crane help Danny's dinosaur friend feel better about his height?
4. What does the dinosaur learn about himself through his experience?

Correlates to Common Core Standards (CCSS) Speaking and Listening: SL.K.1, SL.1.1, and SL.2.1; SL.K.2, SL.1.2, and SL.2.2; SL.K.3, SL.1.3, and SL.2.3. Reading Literature: RL.K.1, RL.1.1, and RL.2.1; RL.K.6, RL.1.6, and RL.2.6.

EXTENSION ACTIVITIES:

Too Tall: With a partner, ask students to make a list of things Danny's dinosaur friend can do precisely because he is tall. Ask students to make a list of their own special abilities and traits. Then ask students to select and write about one thing that makes them unique and special. Ask students to create an illustration to accompany their writing and to share both their illustrations and their writing with the class. Combine student work into a classroom book that highlights the unique students in the classroom.

Correlates to Common Core Standards (CCSS) Language: L.K.1, L.1.1, and L.2.1; L.K.2, L.1.2, and L.2.2. Writing: W.K.2, W.1.2, and W.2.2.

Dear Dino: Ask students to write a letter of encouragement to Danny's dinosaur friend telling him what is so good about being a tall dinosaur and encouraging him to be proud of his height. Then ask students to read their letter to a classmate. Post student letters in the classroom.

Correlates to Common Core Standards (CCSS) Language: L.K.1, L.1.1, and L.2.1; L.K.2, L.1.2, and L.2.2. Writing: W.K.1, W.1.1, and W.2.1.

Friends with a Dinosaur: Ask students to imagine that they are friends with a dinosaur and to write a story about a place they could visit together and what they would do there. Students should include dialogue and details that will help the listener "see" the adventure. Have students read their stories to the class.

Correlates to Common Core Standards (CCSS) Language: L.K.1, L.1.1, and L.2.1; L.K.2, L.1.2, and L.2.2. Writing: W.K.1, W.1.1, and W.2.1.

Reaction to Danny and His Dinosaur Friend:

Ask students to write their reaction or give their opinion of the book *Danny and the Dinosaur: Too Tall*. Students should explain their opinion using ideas and information from the book. For example, "I like the part when Danny . . ." or "I didn't like it when the dinosaur . . ." Ask students to share their reaction papers with another student.

Correlates to Common Core Standards (CCSS) Language: L.K.1, L.1.1, and L.2.1; L.K.2, L.1.2, and L.2.2. Writing: W.K.1, W.1.1, and W.2.1; Reading Literature: RL.K.1, RL.1.1, and RL.2.1.

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