

Looking for More?

Supplemental Activities & Resources

Social Studies Extender

Brainstorm a list of ethnic groups and write it on the board. Ask your students what traits make these groups similar to each other and what traits make these groups different (e.g., language, customs, appearance, etc.). Develop a definition of “ethnic group” and check it in a dictionary.

Math/Social Studies Extender

Have your students create a poster called “Living Together in Our Community.” On the poster, create a circle or bar graph representing your community’s major ethnic groups. Students may bring cultural items to incorporate into the poster. Have your students research the contributions of the different groups, emphasizing that American culture has been greatly enriched by the contributions of its various groups. Ask student representatives from these groups to share some of their group’s traditions with the class.

Language Arts Extender

Discuss generalizations, reminding your students that after Mr. Wilson’s experience with Dennis, he generalized that all kids are TROUBLE. This is an overgeneralization or stereotype. Ask your students to think about generalizations that adults make about kids, and to complete the sentence, “All kids_____.” On the board, create two tally charts. Label one chart Positive and Negative. Label the other chart True and False. Ask your students to read their generalizations aloud, and have the class decide if each generalization is positive or negative, true or false. Ask the following discussion questions:

- Why do people generalize?
- How can generalizations be helpful?
- How can generalizations be harmful?
- How can generalizations create or escalate conflicts?
- What can you do if you hear an inaccurate generalization?

Recommended Reading

Number the Stars, by Lois Lowry. Yearling Books, 1990. The Nazi’s are persecuting the Jews during WWII. Annemarie learns how to be brave when she shelters her Jewish friend, Ellen, from the Nazis.

Crossing Jordan, by Adrian Fogelin. Peachtree Publishers, 2000. Cass and Jemmie break down the fences of prejudice by standing up for their friendship.