

Early Elementary Book Lesson



Book Title

Franklin The Helper: How to Apologize by Franklin C. Edwards,
Illustrated by Mahnoor Ali

Recommended Ages

4 and up

Book Summary to Share With Children

Today we are going to read a story about a little girl named Taylor who loves to paint. One day her friend Katelyn says something mean about her painting and hurts her feelings. Can Franklin the Helper help these two remain friends?

Reflection Questions for the teacher

1. Thinking back to your childhood, what instruction (if any) did you receive from adults about apologizing, asking for forgiveness, and making amends to others?
2. How has your understanding of giving and receiving forgiveness changed as an adult?
3. How do you address teasing, mistreatment, and conflict in your classroom?
4. How might creating common language around apologies in your classroom help students to problem-solve and resolve conflicts on their own?

Reader's Note

As young humans, children will make mistakes as they learn to interact with the people in their world. It's important to instill in children the ability to not only name their own emotions but to begin to have empathy and understanding for others. Learning to apologize is one step that children can take to learn personal responsibility and to grow in empathy.

Sometimes apologizing can feel like a punishment for a child or can be conflated with a sense that the child themselves is wrong, rather than their behavior. By modeling the 4 step apology, children can begin to separate their actions from their sense of self, take personal responsibility where it is needed, and repair any harm that may have been done.

The Four-Step Apology

- 1.) State what you have done wrong
- 2.) Express why the action was wrong or hurtful
- 3.) Tell the other person what you will do differently next time
- 4.) Ask for forgiveness

Resource: <https://mybraveguide.com/2020/04/30/how-to-apologize-for-kids/>



Connection to Social-Emotional Learning and Anti-Bias Education

SEL

Self-Awareness

Self-Management

Social Awareness

Relationship Skills

ABE

Empathy and Understanding

Responsiveness and Action

Discussion Questions

*essential questions in bold

1. What was Taylor's favorite class at school? Why?
2. After Katelyn was mean to Taylor, she lost her confidence. What does it mean to lose confidence in yourself?
3. **Why do you think Katelyn said those mean things to Taylor? What could she have done instead?**
4. How does Franklin help the two friends?
5. **Why is it sometimes hard to apologize for hurting someone's feelings?**
6. Why is it important to tell someone how you'll change your behavior when you're apologizing?
7. Why is it sometimes hard to forgive someone else after they've hurt your feelings?
8. **What can you do if one of your friends says something hurtful to another friend or classmate?**

Journal Questions/Activities

- Tell about a time when you needed to tell someone in your life that you were sorry. Was that hard for you to do? Why or why not?
- Activity: This book highlights a 4-step apology and provides sentence starters that can be used as a template. In pairs, give students a scenario (such as accidentally breaking someone's toy or stepping on someone's toe) and have them role-play apologizing to their peers using this model.