

CHICKEN SOUP FOR THE SOUL MUSICAL THEATRE TEACHER'S COMPANION

GOTTA TRY



Description of Story:

This heartwarming story focuses on a student's social and emotional growth as a result of taking a risk.

Brian is trying to find a way to ask Lisa, who is the most popular girl in school, on a date. He creates various scenarios to "accidentally" meet her, but when they fail he decides to write her a valentine. Rather than give it to her directly he slides it into her school locker and hides, hoping for the best. Much to his embarrassment, her friends find the note and read it aloud for everyone to hear. After going home and licking his emotional wounds, he realizes that even though his plan backfired, he is happy that he tried.

Description of Lesson:

Students will relate to an experience where they had to "put themselves out there." Students will examine and discuss various risk vs. reward scenarios and draw parallels to their own lives. The lesson will prompt students to embrace positive risk-taking and avoid the pitfall of making negative judgments. Through literacy-based activities, student-facilitated discussions and educator-led follow-ups, students will not only learn to recognize situations where other people are taking emotional risks, but they will learn to react to such vulnerability with kindness and compassion.

Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) Objectives:

1. A positive view of risk-taking and its relationship to personal growth
2. A clearer understanding of good risks vs. bad risks and their potential outcomes
3. Understanding how your behavior may affect others
4. Being sensitive to moments when people are taking emotional risks and treating them with compassion and understanding

SEL Compliance Checklist:

This lesson addresses all five SEL competencies as defined by the Collaborative for Academic Social and Emotional Learning:

- ✓ Self-Management
- ✓ Self-Awareness
- ✓ Social Awareness
- ✓ Relationship Skills
- ✓ Responsible Decision-Making

Literacy Prompts (to facilitate conversation and/or writing):

1. How do you think Brian felt just as he was slipping the valentine into Lisa's locker? How do you think he felt when he saw her friends reading it? Have you ever felt such a range of emotion?
2. We've learned that we're vulnerable when we "put ourselves out there." Have you ever felt vulnerable? If so, how? What did you learn from that experience?
3. Have you ever witnessed someone taking an emotional risk? Did you judge that person negatively? Or did you react with kindness and compassion?
4. "Life is either a daring adventure or nothing at all."- Helen Keller
Write a short essay describing what this quote means to you.

Anchor Questions (larger, essential questions that guide students to reflect on their learning):

1. What is risk-taking and what are good and bad risks?
2. How can we embrace risk-taking in our lives and use it for growth?
3. How can we treat others with more compassion and understanding when they are vulnerable?