



Interactive Read Aloud

with CLASS® Concepts

Welcome to Teachstone's Interactive Reading Guide with CLASS[®] Concepts

How to use the guide:

This guide is meant to help you enhance the experience of reading with children. The ideas in the guide will help you make the most of story time, supporting children's learning and engaging with them in a meaningful way.

When planning for story time, begin by reading the book. Then, read this guide. Choose the ideas you think will be most helpful based on what you know about the children you are reading to. It is not recommended that you use all of the ideas in the guide at once, as this may disrupt the flow of the story.

What is CLASS[®]?:

CLASS stands for the Classroom Assessment Scoring System. Developed in 2008 at the University of Virginia, it is a research-driven tool used to improve how teachers interact with children every day to cultivate supportive, structured, and engaging classroom experiences.

The CLASS framework is divided into three domains: Emotional Support, Classroom Organization, and Instructional Support. Each domain is subdivided into several dimensions. This guide offers suggestions on using strategies from each of the CLASS dimensions listed below.

Emotional Support:

Positive Climate (PC)
Teacher Sensitivity (TS)
Regard for Student Perspectives (RSP)

Classroom Organization:

Behavior Management (BM)
Productivity (P)
Instructional Learning Formats (ILF)

Instructional Support:

Concept Development (CD)
Quality of Feedback (QF)
Language Modeling (LM)

COVER:

The title of this book is “We’re Different, We’re the Same”. Do you know what the word "different" means? When you hear the word “same” what is the first thing that comes to your mind? What do you think being different feels like? Look at the picture on the front cover. It has many pictures of children from different parts of the world. Tell me about some of the differences you notice about the children on the cover? (LM, RSP)

PICTURE WALK:

Before we read the words in this book, let us look at the pictures that the illustrator drew to help tell us the story. I will flip the pages and you can tell me what you think the author is going to tell us about being different and being the same. Can you make some predictions about this story just by looking at the pictures? A prediction is what someone thinks will happen. I am excited to hear your thoughts. (RSP, PC, LM)

DIFFERENT NOSES:

What do you think the author means when he says, “Our noses are different”? Let us think for a moment and look around the room. Does your nose look like your peers’ noses? How about your teacher’s nose? Is her/his nose just like yours? Let’s compare your nose with your friends’ noses. Remember that to compare means to look at two or more things closely to see what is similar (looks alike) or different about them. In this case, we are comparing noses. I will look around here to see if anyone has a similar nose to mine. Are you ready? (LM, RSP, PC, CD)

SAME NOSES:

Wait just a minute, the author wrote that our noses are different but, he also is telling us that our noses are the same. How are our noses the same? We all breathe right...what else can we all do with our noses? Did you know that to sniff is to get the odor or scent of something? We can also sneeze using our noses. Do you make a funny sound when you sneeze? Do you remember when was the last time you sneezed? The author said that everyone sneezes. What do we say to someone when he/she sneezes? When we are done with the book, we can draw pictures of our noses if you like. (LM, RSP, CD)

OUR HAIR:

According to the author, how is our hair different? Look at the pictures: some people have long, short, white, black, straight, or curly hair etc. Is there a special hairstyle you like? Hairstyle means a particular way in which a person's hair is cut or arranged. Let me show you my hair style. Is your hair longer or shorter than my hair? Who does your hair? What do you like most about your hair?

How is our hair the same? The author wrote that our hair keeps our heads warm. Let us think for a second here. What happens if I have no hair on my head? Is there a special kind of clothing we use to keep our heads warm? When the author states that "hair frames our faces", he meant that your hair forms a frame around your face and draws good attention to your face. (LM, RSP, PC, CD)

SMILE AND SAY YOUR NAME:

The author wrote that our mouths look different. Look closely and tell me what you notice about this picture? How are those mouths different? On the next page, the author wrote that mouths are the same. The lips form the words we say and we smile when it is a happy day. Tell me one thing that makes you happy? Is there a special word you like to say when you are happy? (LM, RSP, PC)

OUR SKIN:

Tell me about what you see on this page. Why do you think our skin is different colors? A person's skin color is determined by the amount of melanin in his or her skin. Melanin is a dark brown to black pigment or color produced by special cells called melanocytes. Melanin's purpose is to protect the skin from the sun.

As we read the next page, we notice that the author tells us how our skin is the same. Did you know that our skin knows a lot? It tells us when something is cold or hot or wet or dry. How does it feel when you touch ice? Which do you prefer, cold or hot days? Look at this picture: people are at the beach enjoying the sun. Do you like the beach? How does your skin feel when you are at the beach?

Besides being smart, our skin warns us, so we do not get hurt and keeps our bones, muscles, and blood inside of us. It wraps our bodies. What do you think wraps means? Can we see our blood? (LM, PC, CD)

WINK, WINK:

Let us wink together! The author wrote that our eyes are different in that they look different from person to person but they are the same because eyes see, blink, weep, and they wink. Do you know what the word “weep” means? Weep means to cry. When do we weep? Let me wink at you and let us wink at each other. What does it mean to wink? (LM, RSP)

OUR BODIES:

Our bodies are different. Look at this picture and tell me what you notice. How are the bodies on this picture different? Why do you think our bodies are different? Name some things you can do with your body? For example, you can dance. What else can you do? Is there a favorite activity you like to do with your body? The author wrote that our bodies might look different but they are alike too! Alike means that two or more things are similar to one another. (CD, RSP, LM)

HOW ABOUT OUR FEELINGS?:

How are you feeling today? I am incredibly happy to be here reading this wonderful book to you and listening to your ideas and thoughts. The author wrote that our feelings are different, and our feelings are the same. Sometimes we feel happy, scared, glad, delighted, lonely, or sad. What does it mean to feel delighted? How do you know when someone is excited? (PC, RSP, LM)

THE END:

We are all the same but different and that is what makes this world so much fun. There are many kinds of people, the author concludes. So, aren't you glad you look like you? We are all wonderful!

Learn more about how CLASS[®] can help your program improve teacher-child interactions at www.teachstone.com or give us a call at 877-401-8007.