



Video/Story Discussion:

- What was your favorite part of the book? What stood out to you about that?
- How did the story make you feel?
- What is something that you either heard in the story or saw in the illustrations that you have seen/experienced in real life?

Activity #1:

In the book, we saw all kinds of things: young and older people, animals, items, and events. Things as small as a pebble on the beach and things as big as a tree. Some of the things we saw may bring us happiness: music, the beach, our friends and family. While other things we saw, like eating vegetables, feeling hungry, or having a thunderstorm interrupt a trip, may not make us happy.

In the book, one of the less happy moments we saw was the thunderstorm that made the family pack up and leave the beach for the day. The family then decided to make the best of it by heading to a restaurant for a meal together. I am sure we have all had days when things didn't go the way we wanted, or when the day just wasn't our day. But just as we saw in the book, after a thunderstorm the sun comes back out, and we have a chance to make the day better.

Today we are going to create a plan for our own "rainy days." This can mean days when we are stuck inside because of bad weather, but it can also mean days when we are having an emotional "thunderstorm"; when we are feeling sad, frustrated, or just not quite ourselves.

First, we will draw a picture and write a short sentence about something we like to do on a rainy day, such as watching a movie, coloring, playing a game, or, my personal favorite, reading a book. Then, we will do the same thing for an emotional "rainy day." We will draw a picture and write a brief sentence about something we can do to help ourselves feel better or brighten our mood. Maybe it's eating a cupcake, going for a walk, listening to music-anything you can do when you need a little sunshine!

Activity Materials:

- Paper
- Markers, Crayons, Pencils, Etc.

Activity Instructions *(after Intro to Natl Day of Reading and included videos):*

1. Introduce the activity
2. Lead students in a brief brainstorming/discussion session to help everyone generate ideas:
 - What do you like to do when the weather is icky, and you can't go outside?
 - What always puts you in a better mood?
3. Once you feel confident that all students understand the assignment and have an idea of what they would like to write about, distribute paper
4. Allow students 10-20 minutes to draw and write
5. *If adequate time- Once students have completed, invite them to share their work with a partner, in a small group, or with the whole class



Activity #2:

So many things make each of us, our days, and our lives special and unique. What makes us different goes beyond what we look like or who our parents are. It can include our daily routines, silly quirks, favorite activities, and the things we like and dislike. These things make us who we are, and that's why there's only one me and only one of you.

Let's think about our classroom. Each of you is uniquely you, with your own strengths, interests, personalities, and ideas. But if only one of you were here, it wouldn't really be much of a classroom! What makes our classroom so special is all of you together. In the same way, every person, animal, and plant on Earth helps make our world special and beautiful.

We may all be different, but when we come together, we create something much bigger and even more impressive. That is what we will be doing today! We'll take little pieces of what makes each of us unique and bring them together to create something that represents all of us as one classroom.

Each of you will be given a circle to decorate however you like: a picture of yourself, your family, or friends; things you like; or even a pattern that represents who you are. Once everyone has finished, we'll bring all of our circles together and arrange them on one large sheet of paper to create a classroom mural that shows how each student makes the classroom so unique.

Activity Materials:

- Blank Paper Circles
- Markers, Crayon, Pencils, Etc.
- Poster Board
- Glue or Tape

Activity Instructions *(after Intro to Natl Day of Reading and included videos):*

1. Lead the students in a brief brainstorming/discussion session to help everyone generate ideas:
 - What are some things you think represent who you are?
 - What are some things you enjoy?
2. Once you feel confident all students understand the assignment and have an idea of what they would like to draw, distribute the circle cutouts
3. Allow students 15-30 minutes to complete their piece, cut it out, and turn it in to the instructor
4. Instructor then takes all of the students' submissions and secures them to a poster board or, if preferred, allows the students to work together to arrange their pieces on the board

