

ZIGZAG

By Robert D. San Souci

Pre-Kindergarten

Outcome:

Students will create their own doll using the shapes explored in the book. Students will be exposed to the character education concepts of friendship, respect, determination and self-worth.

Materials:

Shapes cut from a variety of fabric samples

Pre-cut body form provided for making a doll

Fabric Glue (can substitute Elmer's if Fabric Glue is not available)

Squiggly Eyes

Yarn

Introductory Activity:

- Teacher passes out two, different fabric shapes to each child in the class.
 - Distributed shapes should include circle, square, triangle, rectangle, star, and half-circle. Shapes should be different sizes.
 - A large quantity of these will need to be cut ahead of time for use in the arts and crafts activity that follows the reading of the story.
- While seated in a circle, students identify their two shapes.
- Teacher instructs students to locate and stand beside items that match one or both of their shapes.
- Teacher asks students to identify the classroom object or objects that match their shapes.
- Collect all shapes and ask children to return to their seats on the floor.

Teacher Reading of Story:

Utilizing a picture walk, teacher encourages students to look for different shapes. Teacher indicates that shapes may be turned upside down or sideways. While reading, teacher should stop on certain pages and help students locate shapes.

For example: *I see four triangles on this page. Can you help me find them?*

BUILDING COMPREHENSION

Predicting Outcomes:

- Does Zigzag look like the other dolls? How is he different? How is he the same?
- Why do you think the author only created one of Zigzag's character and multiples of the other dolls?
- Did the other dolls like Zigzag?
- When do you think Zigzag first felt important and demonstrated self-confidence? Can you think of two examples?
- Now that he has found a home, how do you think his life will change?
- Can you predict what type of lessons the little girl might learn from Zigzag?
- What will happen to Zigzag next?

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Checking Comprehension:

- What is Zigzag?
- Why is he named Zigzag?
- Did the other dolls like Zigzag? Why or why not?

Characterization:

The first time we see Zigzag, he appears to have a sad look on his face. Why is he sad? Does he always have a sad look on his face? Follow Zigzag's journey and discuss how his facial expression changes with the changes in his environment or setting.

Drawing Conclusions:

- If the author asked you to rename Zigzag, what name would you give him?
- Who was the most important person Zigzag met during his journey? Explain.
- Could the author have chosen another doll as the main character and delivered the same message?
- Why were the mice willing to look beyond Zigzag's appearance and offer him help?
- Do you think Zigzag will ever treat others unkindly?

Sequencing:

Zigzag faces a series of problems and resolutions throughout the story.

- List in sequential order the problems he encounters and their associated resolutions.
- What do you think the author expects us to learn from Zigzag's sequence of problems?

Follow Up Activity:

- Ask the class how they thought Zigzag felt throughout the story. When was he sad? When was he happy?
- How did the other dolls treat him? Should you treat anyone the way the other dolls treated Zigzag? Explain.
- Why does the shape of his mouth change at the end of the story?
- Instruct students to go to their tables and make their own doll using shapes from the story.
- Supply shapes cut from a variety of fabric samples. Use the provided body form and print it on heavy stock paper, use die cuts, or create your own form. Have students glue their fabric scraps to the body form.
- Encourage students to use creativity while making their doll. Remind students to include all body parts on their doll.
 - Eyes, nose, mouth, hair, etc.

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Extension Activities/Centers:

- Sort a large variety of buttons by color and shape.
- Sort additional fabric scraps by shape, color and size.
- Use fabric shapes to extend and create two part patterns.
- Build patterns with buttons and shapes.
- Search for specific shapes.
- As a group, list ways to be a better friend.
- Present conflicts and have children problem solve to reach solutions.

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Zigzag pattern

Grade Pre-K

