

The Berenstain Bears' New Neighbors

By Stan and Jan Berenstain

Grade Level: Kindergarten - 2nd

Vocabulary:

real-estate, spite, decent, occasion, whiz, bamboo, pleasant, especially

Pre reading Questions:

- ✓ Can you look at someone and know what kind of person they are?
- ✓ How are your friends different from you? How are they the same?

Highlight During Reading:

★ Hopes-

While looking at the “for sale” sign across the street, each Berenstain family member hoped their new neighbors had certain qualities/characteristics. Discuss what was important to each member and why. Ask students what they value in their neighbors.

★ Difference-

Discuss Papa Bear’s feelings towards the new neighbors from the very beginning. While he and Mama Bear are discussing difference, use a T chart to keep track of his statements and her rebuttals. Connect with the pros and cons of an issue the class is currently involved in to highlight varying viewpoints.

★ Conclusions-

Papa Bear made some conclusions about the new neighbors after looking at the “spite fence”. Have the students predict whether Papa Bear was right or wrong and **why**. Hold onto the predictions and review later on in the story

★ Perspective-

Challenge the students to empathize with the new neighbors’ experience. Ask: How do you think the Panda family was feeling being in a new place?

Post Reading Questions:

- ✓ What difference did you see in how the children and Papa Bear welcomed the new neighbors? Why do you think they felt/acted differently?
- ✓ If the Berenstain Bears had avoided the Panda family because of their “difference”, how would the ending of the story changed? What would it have been like to live on that block?