

Primary Teacher Ideas for *No More Empty Smiles*

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Trust Walk

Pair up the students. Blind fold one member of the pair and have the other lead the blind folded child around the class or school. Have the guide direct by holding hands but not using verbal commands, then verbally but without using touch to guide. Switch roles. How easy is it to trust? How easy is it to guide when your ability to communicate is limited? How does it feel to be out of your element?

Visualization

Seat students comfortably and have them close their eyes. Have students imagine a time when someone helped them feel included and put up their thumbs when they have an image. Use questions to deepen the imagery. (eg. What do you smell? Where was the sun in the sky?) Students quietly go to their desks and draw their image. Students share with elbow partner their image. Encourage students to ask questions of each other and to add detail to their drawings to answer the questions.

Colour

Pick a colour that fits how Henning was feeling when the teacher was teaching him English in front of the class. Draw a picture using only that colour and black. Pick another colour that fits how Henning was feeling when he was able to talk to other kids. Draw a second picture using only that second colour and black. How is the mood of your two pictures different?

Inferring

Authors don't always write explicitly, and we have to infer answers to our questions. We can begin answers with "I think . . ." "Maybe . . ." "It could be . . ." or "I'm guessing that . . .". Answer the following questions, giving reasons from the story. How did Henning's mother feel after dropping him off? What did the first teacher think about Henning at the beginning? How did Else Marie or Henning feel when another student pointed at their lunch? What were the other students thinking?

Guest Speaker

Invite a parent or community member to speak about their experience as an immigrant. Before the guest arrives, coach students on question that they might ask. Encourage students to ask thick question (which encourage answers with depth) rather than thin questions (which have yes/no answers, or are simply about facts like "What colour was the . . .")



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