

MY PAL, VICTOR MI AMIGO, VÍCTOR

Activity #1

Cloud Coloring

Subjects

Art, Language

Description

In this activity, children draw pictures from cloud formations and write the story.

Objectives

- See object visually as one thing and draw into others
- Write a story about what you see

Key Words

creativity

Grade Level(s)

K—4

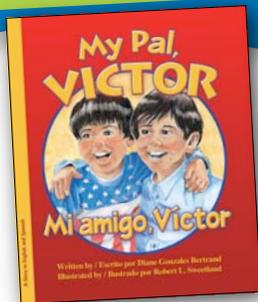
Materials Needed

- Drawing paper
- Writing paper
- Pen/pencil
- Cloudy day

Directions

In the book, *My Pal, Victor/ Mi amigo, Víctor*, the two boys make up stories from the shapes they see in the cloud formations.

1. Lie on your back and look at the clouds. What objects can you identify? Draw them.
2. Compare what you see to others in the class. How are they the same? Different?
3. Now write a story about the objects you found in the sky. Are you writing a fairy tale? Are you in the story? Who is the main character? Tell us about him or her. What is the mood of the story (i.e., happy, scary, sad)?



MY PAL, VICTOR MI AMIGO, VÍCTOR

Activity #2

Imagination

Subjects

Language, Art

Description

Reading, writing and art

Grade Level(s)

K—4

From the author

Here is a bilingual story that can inspire a variety of reading, writing, and art activities. The story is told by Dominic, an able-bodied child who admires his pal Victor for being so imaginative, funny, and adventurous. Even though Victor uses a wheelchair, it doesn't stop him from staying active in mind, body, and spirit. This story will inspire a lively discussion about Victor's character as children explore answers to the questions, "What's wrong with Victor? Why is he in a wheelchair?" It is my hope that this story will give able-bodied children a new viewpoint on other children who move differently. This story can be shared with both English and Spanish readers. The book has a glossary with Spanish vocabulary. The answers for Victor's jokes are printed on the glossary page.

Before reading the book

1. Ask the students to discuss activities they like to do with their friends. Discuss both inside and outside activities.
2. Invite students to look at the cover art. Introduce them to Dominic and Victor. (Victor has a birthmark.)
3. Remind the students that it is Dominic telling the story about his pal, Victor. Here is an opportunity to talk about what it means to have a narrator or viewpoint character in a book.

Reading the book

Victor's Clouds

Discuss the illustrations in the text. How do the words match the pictures? How do pictures add even more to the story?

Victor's Jokes

Pause in reading and let students guess at the answers to the jokes. (The answers are found on page 32.)

Dominic's Baseball Game

Ask students to talk about (or write later) a game they played when they won or lost.

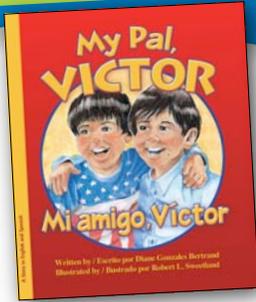
Swimming

Ask students to pantomime the swimming activities in the pool. What would the frog stroke or belly flop look like?

Victor's Scary Stories

Study the illustrations. How do they show more of the boys' imaginations?

(continued)



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Activity #2

Imagination (continued)

Going to the Amusement Park

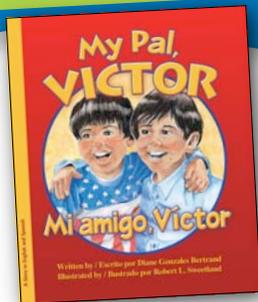
Talk about the boys' different reactions to the rides at the amusement park. What do the different reactions reveal about each boy?

Victor and Dominic's Friendship

Talk about the pictures in the last few pages...all of the different activities the two boys enjoy together. Ask students to talk about the ways that Victor has fun despite his physical limitations.

Reading and Writing Activities

1. Ask students to write the story from Victor's viewpoint. What might he say about his friend Dominic?
2. Ask students to rewrite the baseball game with a different viewpoint. What if Dominic hadn't hit the ball well? What if he was tagged "out" at home plate? Describe what Victor might do to help his friend feel better.
3. Have the students write the story from the point of view of the dog. Using the illustrations in the book, let the dog describe what it's like to live with Victor.
4. Ask students to describe their favorite game, sport, or hobby in a short paragraph. Ask the students to read the paragraph to another student.
5. Ask students to write down some of their favorite jokes and riddles and illustrate them.
6. Let students create their own imaginary cloud stories with words and pictures.
7. Use the pictures on pages 19—21 to get visual ideas for students to write down scary stories that Victor might tell.



MY PAL, VICTOR MI AMIGO, VÍCTOR

Tortillas Recipe

Two young boys experience a carefree friendship despite one boy's disability. Just like two good pals, all this recipe needs is two inside ingredients, roll 'em together and the fun begins.

INGREDIENTS

- One package of 24 count flour tortillas
- Three 15-oz. cans of refried beans
- Two large packages of shredded cheese

DIRECTIONS

1. Empty refried beans into a microwave-safe bowl. Warm about 2 minutes. Stir and heat again another 15—30 seconds. Repeat the process until the beans are warm and easy to spread.
2. Spread a thin layer of warm beans on individual tortillas with the back of a spoon or plastic knife.
3. Sprinkle a layer of cheese down the center of the tortilla. Carefully roll up the tortilla, or you can fold in half.
4. Heat 3—4 at a time on a paper plate until cheese is melted. Serve warm.

*Makes 24 servings

My Pal, Victor • Mi amigo, Victor



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