



Study Guide:

“The New Kid”



"The New Kid"

Synopsis:

A girl named Rachel is fishing with her friend when she tells her she is moving to a new town far away. After she catches a big fish, the two friends say goodbye.

Some time later, Rachel is walking down the street after her first day in her new school. She meets a boy named Ben who loves Legos, and tells her that the most popular girl in school is Kendra Van Pluff. When Rachel asks about another girl, Ella, Ben tells her that she isn't popular and Rachel should try to make friends with Kendra instead. Rachel tells Ben that she was popular in her old school, but now she is "the new kid".

Later when Rachel meets Kendra, she pretends to like the same things as Kendra, even though she really doesn't. Kendra invites her to play tennis, which Rachel agrees to do. They pass by Ella, who often sits outside of her house staring off into space. At the tennis court it is obvious that Rachel isn't very good, and she finally confesses that she has been pretending to like the same things as Kendra in order to be accepted. Kendra tells her to stop pretending and be herself. But then Kendra shows a mean streak when she plays a joke on Ben, and then bullies Ella in front of Rachel.

After Kendra leaves, Rachel follows Ella to the park and apologizes for Kendra's behavior. Ella confides that she comes to the park every day to look for her parakeet Charlie, which escaped from her home weeks ago. The two girls make fast friends in the park, and Rachel invites Ella to go fishing soon.

On the way home Rachel bumps into Ben, who questions why she is hanging around Ella. Rachel explains that there is more to a person than what's on the surface. Together they sing "So Much More".

The next day Rachel and Ella spend the day fishing, followed by a trip to Arby's. When Kendra sees the girls at the restaurant, she is mean to Ella, but Rachel sticks up for her. Kendra can't understand why Rachel, the New Kid, would rather spend time with Ella than her. Rachel explains that she would rather be with someone nice than a popular girl who's mean.

In the days that follow, people start to be nicer to Ella. When Ben finds out about the missing parakeet, he builds a birdhouse out of Legos and catches the bird outside his window. When he returns the bird to Ella, she has gained another friend. Rachel decides now is the time to tell Ella that she is moving back to her old town far away, but before she leaves, she makes Ben promise to stay friends with Ella and Ben agrees. The friends say goodbye.

Epilogue:

Months later, Ben and Ella are playing tennis, when they are surprised by an unexpected visitor: Rachel has moved back to her new town, and once again the friends are reunited., this time for good.

Questions:

Q: Rachel was very popular at her old school, but in her new school what is she?

A: The New Kid.

Q. Why does Rachel pretend to like the same things Kendra likes?

A. She wants Kendra to like her

Q: Why do people make fun of Ella?

A: She sits alone outside of her house, staring into space.

Q. Why does Ella go to the park every day?

A: She is looking for her lost parakeet, Charlie.

Q: What is Ben's favorite thing?

A: Legos.

Q: What does Ben build out of Legos to catch the bird?

A: A birdhouse

Q: What does Rachel teach Ella to do?

A. Fish.

Q: Why does Rachel make Ben promise to be Ella's friend?

A: Because Rachel is moving back to her old town.

Q: What does Rachel teach Ella about herself?

A: Have confidence, and believe in yourself.

Suggestion:

If you like, have the children draw their favorite scene from the show. You may mail them to us at: Sadecky's Puppets, 313 5th Ave., Tarentum, PA 15084.

Name: _____

“The New Kid” Student Worksheet

Write one or two words that describe each of the following characters:

1. Rachel
2. Kendra Van Pluff
3. Ben
4. Ella
5. Charlie

Which character above might say this? (write the number)

_____ I am a popular girl in town, but I’m also not very nice sometimes.

_____ I enjoy bird watching, and sitting outside my house.

_____ I am a bird.

_____ I have every Lego set ever made.

_____ I went from being the popular girl to the New Kid.

Word Search Puzzle

CHARACTER MATTERS

R	V	Y	V	H	O	P	L	K	L	W	O	G	Y	C
E	S	G	R	Z	O	I	X	M	S	C	E	Y	P	O
S	N	B	X	I	A	H	E	O	R	I	P	M	P	O
P	V	O	T	R	U	S	T	W	O	R	T	H	Y	P
E	N	Y	I	K	I	N	D	N	E	S	S	S	G	E
C	T	D	Y	T	S	E	N	O	H	W	X	V	N	R
T	C	I	O	Y	A	Z	P	U	H	R	O	O	I	A
Y	T	I	L	I	B	I	S	N	O	P	S	E	R	T
M	A	L	Y	O	C	T	C	S	V	E	C	M	A	I
D	U	Q	I	D	P	I	Q	E	E	E	A	S	C	O
B	G	Y	W	E	P	C	V	P	R	N	A	D	B	N
S	U	O	E	T	R	U	O	C	N	P	R	L	B	I
A	P	Y	Y	R	J	T	P	E	V	Q	P	I	T	D
O	P	S	K	X	L	V	R	G	U	R	S	A	A	X
G	M	Z	H	X	I	S	I	Y	R	T	B	C	S	F

APPRECIATION
CITIZENSHIP
FAIRNESS
MANNERS
RESPONSIBILITY
BULLY
COOPERATION
HONESTY
POLITE
TRUSTWORTHY
CARING
COURTEOUS
KINDNESS
RESPECT

ABOUT SADECKY'S PUPPETS

Sadecky's Puppets was founded by brothers Jay and Michael Sadecky, who had an early interest in the art of puppetry. As children they developed and performed skits for family and relatives. Some homemade puppets were made in the mid 1960's as a scouting project. By the year 1970 the Sadecky's were doing shows for private parties and holiday events. In pursuit of other interests, the puppets were put away until 1981 when Jay decided to revive the idea. He asked Michael to design and build a stage and construct some puppets for 5 seasonal productions. In 1982 Jay & Michael became full-time partners and for the next 5 years produced and rehearsed shows at home, until acquiring an office and workshop in Tarentum, Pennsylvania in 1986. Their sister Kathy and additional puppeteers were hired to perform shows (using 2 stages) simultaneously at different locations. Professional puppet makers and scenic artists began to aid in production design. The sales staff started marketing to nearby states and soon after that Sadecky's Puppets became the touring company that it is today. Our puppeteer troupes now travel to 14 different states, performing over 400 shows per year!

The productions deal with many different topics, including character education, storybook classics and holiday themes. We've created our storylines based on annual client surveys and also written reviews received from educators and audience members after each school performance. In this way, the viewer evaluates our performances, and the teachers have the opportunity to tell us what they would like to see in the future.

Having children of their own, both Jay and Mike recognize the importance of the nurturing and character building of today's children. Written into each script are issues such as respect, peer pressure and honesty. We hope that in this way the students will not only be entertained, but they will also learn valuable life lessons.