

HOW DO DINOSAURS GET WELL SOON?

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By Jane Yolen, illustrated by Mark Teague

Themes: Humor, Animals, Poetry, Health, Behavior

Ages: 3-6

Running Time: 8 minutes

SUMMARY

Are dinosaurs like children when they get sick? Find out in this fanciful, rhyming tale of dinosaurs and their illnesses. If children think it's bad when they are sick, they can only imagine how hard it is to get a parasaurolophus to take his medicine or to calm a wailing dilophosaurus. Being sick becomes a whole different beast when dinosaurs are involved!

OBJECTIVES

- Students will make text-to-self connections.
- Students will discuss how to feel better when they are sick.

BEFORE VIEWING ACTIVITIES

Have students draw a picture entitled "The Worst Day I Was Sick." Each student should share his/her picture with the class and describe why it was the worst day.

Write a class poem about being sick. Help students come up with creative adjectives to describe their experiences when sick. Go around in a circle, having each child contribute one word or line to the poem. Encourage the students to try to make their contribution fit with the previous line or lines. Read some poetry aloud to give them ideas!

AFTER VIEWING ACTIVITIES

Help students make text-to-self connections.

Guiding questions:

- Were there any dinosaurs in the movie that acted like you when you are sick? Which one(s)? What did they do to make you think of yourself?
- What do people do to get well? Do you do any of the same things that the dinosaurs did? Do you do anything different?

Write a book as a class entitled, "*How Do Kids Get Well Soon?*" Students can brainstorm ways that they get better when they are sick, such as drinking lots of juice, resting, and taking medicine. Write down their ideas as a first draft, on large chart paper. Then, read the draft aloud, encouraging students to make changes to language and content. Provide suggestions to make the book sound better. Rewrite the edited story onto large chart paper, leaving room for illustrations. Depending upon the size of the class, one or two children can illustrate each page. The class will then have a self-authored book on personal health!

Students can make drawings of dinosaurs engaging in human activities. Encourage students to represent the huge size of the dinosaurs in relation to human-sized objects. Help students to write a caption for their pictures and display them in the classroom.

Invite the school nurse, or a parent or member of the community who is a doctor or nurse, to visit the classroom and talk with children about how to stay healthy, and what to do when you are sick. Encourage children to share the "book" they created about personal health with the doctor or nurse. If children have questions, this is an excellent opportunity for them to ask an expert that everyone can learn from.

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