

LITTLE TIM AND THE BRAVE SEA CAPTAIN

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by Edward Ardizzone

Themes: Running Away, The Sea

Grade Level: K-3

Running Time: 11 minutes, iconographic

SUMMARY

LITTLE TIM AND THE BRAVE SEA CAPTAIN is the story of a boy who dreams of being a sailor. In fact, this child is so intent upon becoming a sailor that he decides to run away to sea at the first opportunity. This opportunity arises sooner than the boy expects. A boatman asks the boy to join him as he takes his motor boat out to meet a steamer. The boy decides to hide on the steamer when the boatman leaves, beginning his journey as a stowaway.

When the boy is discovered on the steamer he must carry his weight by scrubbing the deck and doing all kinds of chores. In short order, everyone becomes fond of the boy and the boy begins to feel that, indeed, this is the life for him. One day a storm begins to rage at sea. That night all on board pile into life rafts as the ship is tossed and turned so violently that it becomes apparent that the ship will sink. Unfortunately, the boy remains on board with the captain who prepares for Davey Jones's locker. At the very last moment, the boy and the captain are saved. The boy is returned home from his amazing adventure with the captain.

OBJECTIVES

- Children will explore the feeling of wanting to run away.
- Children will learn about boating and life at sea.
- Children will learn the importance of preparing for future occupations.

BEFORE VIEWING ACTIVITIES

Share the book, LITTLE TIM AND THE BRAVE SEA CAPTAIN, with children.

Talk with children about their own boating trips or ocean adventures. Ask:

- What do you enjoy most about the sea?
- What was it like to ride in a boat on the ocean (river, lake, pond)?
- How would you spend your days if you were on a large boat at sea?

Discuss with children the things they might like to be when they grow up. Have them compose a short paragraph about their future occupations and what they would do.

AFTER VIEWING ACTIVITIES

Talk with children about their own desire to run away when they become angry or frustrated. Ask:

- What happened to make you feel you wanted to run away?
- How did you solve your problem?

As children discuss these questions, emphasize the importance of talking through feelings of anger and frustration with parents and guardians.

Draw and cut out a large, simple boat

from construction paper. Show the boat to children and have them imagine that this is a magical boat that will take them any place, real or imaginary, that they choose. Have children think about where they would want this magical boat to take them. Then have children write stories about their adventures on this magical boat. Display the stories with the boat on a classroom wall or bulletin board.

Invite speakers to your classroom who are sailors or who are involved in a variety of occupations. Arrange to have the speakers describe their occupations and the kinds of preparation necessary for these jobs as they talk with children.

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