

PANAMA

Panama

By Janosch (Little Brown)

Themes: Home Sweet Home, Friendship

Grade Level: K-2

Length: 11 minutes, animated

Summary

Panama is the story of two friends, a bear and a tiger, who lived happily together in a cozy little house in the country. The bear spends his days fishing while the tiger spends his days in the woods.

One day, the bear finds a box of bananas on the river. The box is labeled "Panama." The bananas smell so good that the bear thinks the whole country must smell that way. Bear decides that Panama is the land of his dreams and that he and his friend Tiger must go there.

As Bear and Tiger begin their journey to Panama, it occurs to them that they do not know which direction to take. They meet various friends who tell them to go right or left, this way or that. After several tiring days of travel they meet a crow, who tells them that he can show them the land of their dreams if they follow him to the highest branch of a tall tree.

Once at the top, Bear and Tiger look out upon the land that surrounds their own home. Bear and Tiger have never seen the land from this perspective before. They are so taken with the beauty of this sight that they decide they must be in Panama.

The story ends with Bear and Tiger returning to their home, making repairs to damage that occurred during their absence, and realizing that there is no place like home

Objectives

- Children will attempt to evaluate the quality of their own lives
- Children will learn about the importance of questioning and investigating new ideas
- Children will explore various aspects of friendship

Before Viewing Activities

Share the book *The Trip To Panama* with children. Talk with children about trips they may have taken with their families. Ask: Where did you go? How long were you gone? How did you feel about leaving home? How did you feel when you returned home?

Have children describe the things they enjoy most about their homes and families. Encourage them to list the things they would miss if they were to move somewhere else or spend time with a family other than their own. Ask children to write a story called "home".

After Viewing Activities

Have children describe what their ideal home would be like. Ask: What country would you live in? What would your house be like? Who would be your neighbors? What kinds of things would fill your home? Have children draw pictures of their ideal homes. Then help children print their descriptions of these homes and display them, along with the drawings, on a classroom wall or bulletin board.

Talk with children about friendship. Ask: How did you know that Bear and Tiger were good friends?

What did they do to care for one another? What kinds of things do you do to show you care for your friends?

Show children a photograph or illustration of scenes including homes and people. Have children imagine what it might be like to live in this scene. Help children consider what it might be like to be involved in this situation by asking: Who might your neighbors be? What kinds of things would you do outdoors? Which would be your best friend's house? What would your bedroom be like? Post the photo/illustration where children can see the scene clearly. Then have children create stories involving the places and people in this setting. Later, display children's stories around the photo/illustration.

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