

# THE TRIP

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Themes: Moving/ Friendship/ Imagination/ Halloween

Grade Level: K-2

Running Time: 6 minutes, iconographic w/ limited animation

## SUMMARY

THE TRIP Begins with a young boy, named Louie, who feels sad because he has just moved to a new neighborhood. Louie tries to manage the change by creating his own version of his old neighborhood with construction paper and pasting it into a shoebox. When Louie finishes, he lets his imagination take over and pretends to be flying over his old neighborhood in the paper plane he attaches to the roof of his shoebox. Once there, he discovers his old friends out for a night of trick-or-treating in his new neighborhood. The story ends with Louie leaving his home dressed as an ice cream cone and meeting a new group of trick-or-treating friends.

## OBJECTIVES

- Children will explore the effects of change.
- Children will investigate one particular kind of change, moving to a new home.
- Children will talk about Halloween.

## BEFORE VIEWING ACTIVITIES

Share the book THE TRIP with children.

Talk with children about the significant changes they may have experienced in their lives, including moving, gaining a sibling, parents divorcing, going to a new school, etc. Ask:

- How did these changes make you feel?
- What, if anything, did you worry most about?
- What helped you feel better about the changes?
- What, if anything, did you enjoy most about the

changes?

- What would you tell a friend who was going through the same kind of changes?

Supply old clothes or costumes, or have children bring old costumes from home that they can use for a Halloween celebration in the classroom. (It need not even be fall, you can have fun with a pre- or post- Halloween celebration.) Have a Halloween parade indoors and enjoy Halloween treats at snack time that the children have participated in making. Throughout the day, encourage children to describe the things they do, and the ways they feel, during Halloween.

## AFTER VIEWING ACTIVITIES

Supply shoeboxes, cellophane, construction paper, string or yarn, scissors, and paste that children can use to create their own shoebox environments.

Have Children describe their environments to one another. Later, have children dictate stories about events that take place in these environments. Print children's stories on separate pieces of paper and attach them to the shoeboxes. Display children's shoebox creations and stories on a classroom table.

Plan an "upside down day" in the classroom. Before children arrive at school, rearrange their desks, move your own desk to a new area, switch name tags on shelves and cubbies, rearrange classroom displays, etc. Pay close attention to children's individual reactions as they enter the classroom. Ask:

- How do these changes make you feel?
- How do you think you're going to feel about working in this classroom today?

At the end of the day, discuss children's feelings about the changes and the effect the changes had

on them. See if children can recall how they felt at the beginning of the day to see if their experience was what they imagined it would be.

Have children make paper airplanes that they can use outdoors during recess. Before taking them outdoors, have children imagine that the airplanes could take them anywhere they wanted to go.

Ask:

- Where would you go in your airplane? Why?
- What would you enjoy most about being there?
- What is the first thing you would do when you arrived?
- What would you miss about home?
- What is the first thing you would do when you returned home?

Supply manila construction paper and crayons that children can use to draw pictures of these far off destinations.

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