

THE MOST WONDERFUL EGG IN THE WORLD

The Most Wonderful Egg in the World

by Helme Heine (Antheneum)

Theme: Self-Esteem

Level: Grades K-1

Length 6 minutes, animated

Summary

THE MOST WONDERFUL EGG IN THE WORLD, the film, is true to the book, The Most Wonderful Egg in the World, by Helme Heine. The story concerns three hens who are quarreling because each feels that she is more beautiful than the other two. When they cannot solve their problem, they approach the king and ask him to determine which of them is the most beautiful.

The king responds by saying that it is what they do, not how they look. He says that he will make the hen who lays the most perfect egg, the princess.

The three hens each lay unique eggs, which are perfect in their own ways. The story ends with the king deciding to make each a princess, and all live happily ever after as friends.

Objectives

- Children will learn about values
- Children will explore problem-solving techniques
- Children will learn about the importance of self-esteem

Before Viewing Activities

Share the book The Most Wonderful Egg in the World with children.

Then ask:

Why are the hens quarreling in the beginning of the story?

What was so special about Dotty's appearance? Stalky's?

Plumy's?

Who do they go to for advice?

What does the king tell them?

What kind of egg does Dotty lay? Stalky? Plumy?

Who becomes the princess at the end of the story?

How do the three hens feel about this?

Discuss with the children the people they know that are very special to them. Ask: Why are these people special? Does it have anything to do with the way they look?

Stress to the children that physical beauty has nothing to do with what makes people kind, or good, or special. Tell children that the film they are about to see concerns three hens, each of whom feels she is the most beautiful. As children watch, have them think about whether or not physical beauty is really important.

Ask children to draw a simple picture of a person. Then arrange the pictures on a table top where each one can clearly be seen. Have children study the group of pictures carefully, looking for the differences and similarities between them. Explain to children that this is one example of how each of them is special and unique. Emphasize that although they were all asked to draw the same thing, each one of them drew a picture in a way that was meaningful to them. To prepare children for the film, explain that the story involves three hens, each of whom is special in her own way. Encourage children to look for the ways in which the hens are different as they view the film.

After Viewing Activities

Supply art materials that children can use to create their own "perfect eggs". (You might want to provide plastic eggs used to house panty hose for this project.) When children finish, have them share their creations with others in the group. As children discuss their eggs, emphasize the individual ways each child chose to create an egg representing his or her idea of perfection. Stress that this is another example of how we are all interesting and unique individuals.

Talk with children about the process of getting eggs from the farm to the supermarket. Include in your explanation the following stages: eggs laid by hens, eggs collected by machine, eggs packaged, eggs delivered to supermarkets and grocery stores, eggs purchased. If possible, plan a visit to a farm where children can actually see the source of the eggs they enjoy at home!

Discuss other animals and plants that are the sources of the foods we enjoy. Provide pictures of these animals and plants and line them up along the chalkboard. Then provide pictures of foods that we get from these animals and plants. Have children take turns matching the foods to their sources by placing the food pictures in front of the appropriate animals and plants.

Remind children the way the hens' problem was solved in the film. Then ask: What other ways could the hens have solved their problems? What if the king was away and they could not ask him for advice? How do you feel about the way the king solved the problem? What other suggestions might the king have given the hens?

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