YO! YES?
by Chris Raschka (Orchard Books)
CALDECOTT HONOR BOOK
Themes: Friendship/Diversity
Grade Level: K - 5
Running Time: 5 minutes

SUMMARY
Yo! Yes? is an important story of two boys, each very different, who consider the possibility of friendship. As they exchange few words, they slowly come to choose the idea of spending time together over the idea that their differences are so great they should remain apart.

OBJECTIVES
• Children will learn about making friends
• Children will investigate the power of verbal and non-verbal communication
• Children will explore how we make judgements and consider new possibilities.

BEFORE VIEWING ACTIVITIES
Have children talk about friendships they have made. Ask:
• How did you meet your friend?
• Do you look just like your friend? How are you different?
• What do you enjoy doing with your friend?
• How do you let your friend know when you’re sad? Happy? When you want to play a special game? Are there ways you can let your friend know how you’re feeling without talking? What are these ways?

AFTER VIEWING ACTIVITIES
Have children close their eyes and try to remember the way each boy looked in the story. Encourage them to describe the two boys in detail. After children explore the boys’ clothing and physical appearance in general, have them consider the things that were similar about the two boys. Ask: In what ways do you think the two boys might be alike? What kinds of things do you think the boys might enjoy together? As children talk, help them to see that when we look beyond superficial differences we become capable of seeing the many ways in which we have things in common with others.

Talk with children about the many things the boys in the story might do together. Supply art materials children can use to draw pictures of these things. When children are done, have them share their pictures with the group. Ask: Have you ever done the things you imagine the boys doing with one another? What did you enjoy most about those activities? Who did you do them with? Would you have enjoyed the activities as much if you had done them alone? Why? Why not?

Put on some lively music. Encourage children to move to the music in their own creative ways. Allow time for children to demonstrate their movements to the group and have others try to imitate the movements they see. Later, talk with children about their individual movement styles, emphasizing the way that sharing their style of moving and learning from the movement styles of others gives them pleasure and expands their ability to respond to the music.

Place a large mirror in front of children and have them look carefully at their different physical features. Encourage them to describe their eye color, skin color, hair color and style, etc. Later, have children talk about the ways in which their physical appearance is similar to that of their classmates, and the ways in which they are physically different. Help children to see how these physical differences and similarities have little to do with their ability to work and play together.

Other videos and films about friendship available from Weston Woods include:
SPACE CASE by Edward Marshall, ill. by James Marshall
THE ISLAND OF THE SKOG by Steven Kellogg
A WEEKEND WITH WENDELL by Kevin Henkes
OFFICER BUCKLE AND GLORIA by Peggy Rathmann
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