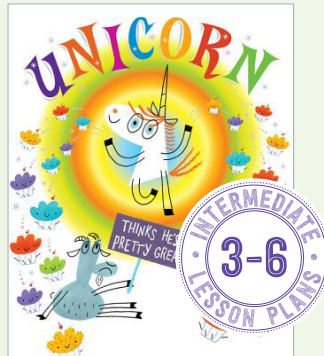


Unicorn Thinks He's Pretty Great

by Bob Shea

Themes

Do Your Best
Never Give Up
Uniqueness of Me
Self-Acceptance
Encourage Others
Friendships



Goat tells the story of how things changed when Unicorn arrived in town. Unicorn could do so many things better than everyone else....and Unicorn knows it! Throughout this whimsical and witty tale, Goat discovers that if you combine Unicorn's magic with Goat's awesomeness – they could be an unstoppable “Do Your Best” team!

Teacher Note: NED reminds kids to do their best at everything!
“Even if you can't do something as great as someone else – always try to do YOUR personal best. That's what makes you a Champion!”

Before Reading: Discussion Starters

1. What does it mean to “show off”?
2. How does it feel when someone “shows off”?

After Reading: Discussion Starters

1. **Make a list of events in the story. Discuss Goat's feelings and attitude at each event.**
Answers will vary. Encourage students to list as many different emotion words as they can.
 - Mad (things changed when unicorn moved in)
 - Proud (when he felt cool riding bike to school)
 - Insignificant (when unicorn flew by to get to school)
 - Excited (when dancing in talent show)
2. **Make a list of feelings that UNICORN had throughout the story.**
Answers will vary
3. **Why did Goat say “I can't follow that” in the talent show?**
He thought Unicorn's talent was better than his. He didn't feel his best was as good as Unicorn's best.
4. **How did Goat react to Unicorn? Goat called Unicorn names, mimicked him and made rude comments about others who befriended him. How could Goat have been more like NED?**
Answers will vary. How did Unicorn react to Goat? Unicorn appeared to be unaware of the problems he was causing for Goat. Once Unicorn discovered a unique ability of Goat, he was full and praise and encouragement for Goat. He talked about how he struggled with some of the very abilities that others thought were so amazing (like eating glitter and rainbows on a sensitive stomach).
5. **Discuss how each person's “best” is not the same. Help students to see that our unique gifts and things we are BEST at can work together for good – like in the story.**

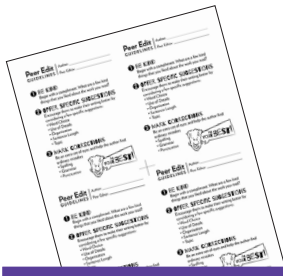
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PRINTABLE:

Story Planning



PRINTABLE:

Peer Edit Guide



PRINTABLE:

When we do our best

6. Discuss how it feels to know you are doing your best?

Answers will vary. Sense of personal satisfaction. No self-judgment. No regrets

7. Will your BEST always be the same?

Answers will vary. Your best will get better. Your best changes from moment to moment.

Writing Prompt

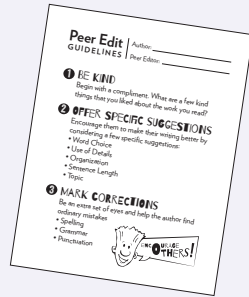
Why is it important to “Do Your Best,” even when no one is looking?

Activities

Writing Activity: Innovate on the Story

Using the printable story planner, instruct students to choose two new animals as the main characters in their story. Select animals based on unique characteristics and abilities of each animal. Using the same writing framework as the story, students can write a unique version of this story.

Use the Peer Editing Guide printable to revise story drafts. Students can then illustrate their stories.



NED's Peer REVIEW PROCESS

A peer edit, with clear guidelines for students to give positive feedback and suggestions on each other's work, will motivate and encourage your student writers.

1. BE KIND
2. OFFER SPECIFIC SUGGESTIONS
3. MARK CORRECTIONS

Share your work! Send a copy of your published work to The NED Show! We love to see student work and may feature it on our web page or other social media sites.

Attn: Books
All for KIDZ - Creative Department
20700 44th Avenue W Ste 220
Lynnwood, WA 98036

Or, email us at creative@theNEDshows.com. Note: We aren't able to return stories.

When we “Do Our Best”

Arrange students in partners. Using the printable sheet, partners can identify their personal “bests” and how they could blend them to be better together.

Resources

Accelerated Reading Quiz: 159163
Author Website: www.bobshea.com

“I Did My Best” Button

NED buttons are a great reward when students do their personal best! Visit www.ShopNED.com to purchase.



Name: _____ Date: _____

PROJECT PLANNING SHEET

Choose two new animals as the main characters in your story. Select your animals based on unique characteristics and abilities of each animal. Using the same writing framework as the story *Unicorn Thinks He's Pretty Great*, write your own unique version of this story.

TITLE		
SETTING		
CHARACTERS	#1	#2
unique features		
unique abilities		

#1 does something pretty cool	
#2 does something cooler	
#1 does something that is okay	
#2 does something that is perfect	
#1 does something well	
#2 does the same thing even better	
#1 reacts (not like NED!)	
#2 sees something wonderful about #1	
#2 sees few more things wonderful about #1	
#1 compliments #2 on something #2 can do	
#2 compliments #1 on something #1 can do	
They decide together they will be an unstoppable team at	
#1 and #2 each contribute to the team by...	
#1 and #2 become friends and...	



Peer Edit GUIDELINES

Author: _____

Peer Editor: _____

1 BE KIND

Begin with a compliment. What are a few kind things that you liked about the work you read?

2 OFFER SPECIFIC SUGGESTIONS

Encourage them to make their writing better by considering a few specific suggestions:

- Word Choice
- Use of Details
- Organization
- Sentence Length
- Topic

3 MARK CORRECTIONS

Be an extra set of eyes and help the author find ordinary mistakes

- Spelling
- Grammar
- Punctuation



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When WE do our BEST. (partner writing activity)

Name: _____

Name: _____

Things I do best

Things I do best

 What we could do TOGETHER! 