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Introduction

Friendship contains a captivating, whole language, thematic unit about being and having friends. The reproducible pages are filled with a wide variety of lesson ideas designed for use with primary children. At its core are two high-quality children's literature selections, *Friends* and *Best Friends*. For each of these books, activities are included which set the stage for reading, encourage the enjoyment of the book, and extend the concepts gained. In addition, the theme is connected to the curriculum with activities in language arts (including daily writing suggestions), maths, science, social studies, art, music, and life skills (cooking, physical education, etc.). Many of these activities encourage cooperative learning. Suggestions and patterns for bulletin boards and unit management tools are additional time savers for the busy teacher. Furthermore, directions for student-created Big Books and a culminating activity, which allow students to synthesize their knowledge in order to produce products that can be shared beyond the classroom, highlight this very complete teacher resource.

This thematic unit includes:

- **literature selections** — summaries of two children's books with related lessons (complete with reproducible pages) that cross the curriculum
- **poetry** — suggested selections and lessons enabling students to write and publish their own works
- **planning guides** — suggestions for sequencing lessons each day of the unit
- **language experience ideas** — daily suggestions as well as activities across the curriculum, including Big Books
- **bulletin board ideas** — suggestions and plans for student-created and/or interactive bulletin boards
- **homework suggestions** — extending the unit to the child's home
- **curriculum connections** — in language arts, maths, science, social studies, art, music, and life skills such as cooking
- **group projects** — to foster cooperative learning
- **a culminating activity** — which requires students to synthesize their learning to produce a product or engage in an activity that can be shared with others
- **a bibliography** — suggesting additional literature and nonfiction books on the theme

Friends

by Helme Heine

Summary

Friends are so much fun to be with! In this delightful story of friendship you will meet Charlie Rooster, Johnny Mouse, and Percy, the pig. They wake up the whole farm, go for a morning bike ride, play hide and seek, pretend to be pirates, go fishing, pig out (no pun intended!) on cherries, and pledge to be friends forever!

The outline below is a suggested plan for using the various activities presented in this unit. You may adapt the ideas to meet specific needs in your classroom environment.

Sample Plan

Day I

- Brainstorm "What Is a Friend?" (p. 6)
- Bulletin Board Display (p. 63)
- Read *Friends*
- Friendly Observations (p. 6)
- Build a Friend (pp. 9-11)
- Write "My Friends" Book (p. 29)
- "Friends Across the Wall" Art Project (p. 51)
- Homework—Picture This! (p. 56)

Day II

- Share Homework
- Create a "Fun Times" Web (p. 6)
- "Friends Are Fun!" Activity (p. 12)
- Friendship Exercise Course (p. 53)
- Create Maths Games (p. 41)
- Make Friendship Fudge (p. 54)
- Friends Are Fun Acrostic (p. 28)
- Homework—Let's Have Fun! (p. 56)

Day III

- Share Homework
- Friendship Wheels (p. 13)
- "Befriend" Another Class (p. 7)
- Practise Maths Facts (p. 41)
- "Be a Friend" Posters (p. 30)

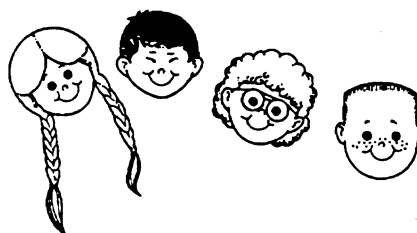
- Listen to a Community Friend (p. 7)
- Write Friendly Thank You Letters (p. 7)
- Homework—Helper Coupons (p. 56)

Day IV

- What Is a Friend? Review Activity (p. 15)
- If We Were All the Same – Pre-Reading Activity (p. 16)
- A Friendly "Round" of Song (p. 28)
- How Are We Different? (p. 47)
- "I Can Be Different" Accordion Books (p. 29)
- Friends Across the Globe (p. 50)
- Homework—Same/Different Chart (p. 56)

Day V

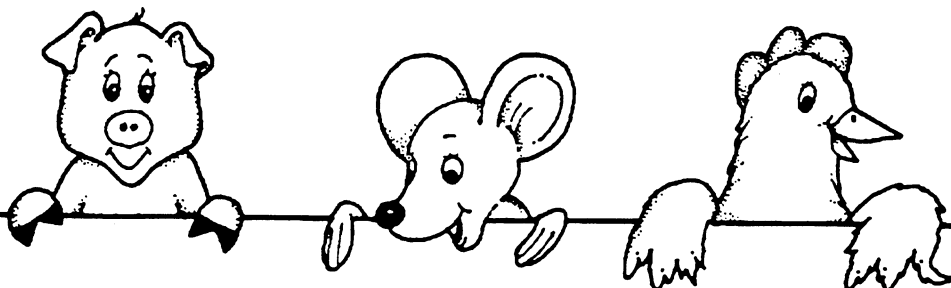
- Culminating Activity: Create a Friendship Listening Centre (p. 57)
- Hand out a Friendship Award (p. 77) to each student.



Helping Friends

Friends Help Each Other

Ask the students to think of times when they have helped friends. Give an example of a time that you helped a friend. Ask students to give examples of how the animals in the story helped each other. List their replies on butcher paper.



- * Johnny Mouse and Percy helped Charlie Rooster wake up the other animals.
- * To ride the bike, Charlie Rooster steered while Percy and Johnny Mouse pedalled.
- * Johnny Mouse steered the boat, while Charlie Rooster helped it sail, and Percy covered up the hole in the bottom of the boat with his body.
- * Percy held Johnny Mouse while the mouse used his tail to go fishing, and Charlie Rooster took care of the worms in his beak.
- * They all helped each other to reach the cherries by standing on each other's shoulders.
- * Johnny Mouse and Percy helped Charlie Rooster's anger by giving him the cherry pips.
- * Percy helped Charlie Rooster get unstuck from Johnny Mouse's "house" hole.
- * They helped each other decide that it was not the best idea to spend the night together; instead, they could dream about each other, as true friends do!

When Friends Help Each Other, They Are Cooperating.

Explain the above statement to the class. Ask students to give examples of how they help each other (cooperate) in the classroom. Add their replies to the butcher paper.

Hand out a **Friendship Wheel** (p. 14) to each student.

Give the following directions:

1. In the centre, where the smaller circle is located, draw a picture of yourself and label with your name.
2. Think of four friends that you help, or that help you. Write their names in the four sections.
3. Draw a picture and/or write a sentence expressing how you or your friend help each other.
4. Share wheels either in whole or small groups. Display.

