

# Highlights Library Lesson: Showing Empathy

## (Highlights Library Lesson for Grades 4-5)

### Standards:

Ohio's K-12 Social Emotional Learning Standards

Competency C – Social Awareness

C1: Recognize, identify, and empathize with the feelings and perspective of others

C1. 3.b Demonstrate empathetic reactions in response to others' feelings and emotions

### Overview:

Students will read the *Ask Arizona* story, "Reaching out to the New Kid," (Lexile: 630, Guided Reading Level: P) and use an empathy map to demonstrate their awareness of and reactions to others' feelings and emotions.

### Materials Needed:

- Computer/Projector
- Website: Go to <http://www.infohio.org>. Click on K-5, and then Highlights Library. Use the search box and type in the title "Reaching out to the New Kid."

#### Best Practice:

Teachers should use quality digital literature, just as they use quality print texts.

### Instructional Plan:

**Before** reading "Reaching out to the New Kid:"

1. Ask students to share if they have moved to a new school before. Ask them to describe their feelings or thoughts. Students who have not moved to a new school may share their past reactions to new students.
2. Explain to students that *Ask Arizona* is a regular feature in Highlights magazine. In Highlights Library, the structure of the article is the same. Arizona answers a question from a reader by telling a story about a time when she experiences something similar.
3. You may wish to share and discuss these words from the story:
  - **hesitating**
  - **awkward**
  - **invisibility**
  - **absorbed**
  - **drenched**
4. Introduce or review this word:
  - **empathy**
5. Provide students with a copy of the [Empathy Map](#).
  - Students can make a copy of the template in their Google Drive or you can print it for them to use.

- While reading the story, direct students to write in what Abbey may be thinking and feeling as well as what she does and says.

**Best Practice:**

The use of digital text and technology must be matched with student need and scaffolded. Most promising literacy practices with digital tools and devices involve lots of human to human interaction. Encourage active use of technology/digital texts to connect to self, to other texts, and to the world.

**After** reading the story:

1. Discussion: Did they hear/read the new vocabulary words? Did it help them to know what those words meant before they read the story?
2. Review the results of the students' empathy maps in small groups. Ask students to provide at least one piece of evidence from the story to support each thought or feeling Abbey may have.
3. Ask students to share their answers. Compare and contrast the thoughts and feelings with the discussion from the pre-reading activity.
4. Ask students to write a paragraph that explains their previous reaction to a new student and how they might react differently now. How will Abbey's story and their understanding of empathy change their behavior?

**Extension Activities:**

1. Bring in print copies of Highlights magazine and encourage students to read *Ask Arizona* in print or in Highlights Library. Ask students to experiment reading the print text and listening to/reading the digital text in Highlights Library.
2. Encourage students to read other *Ask Arizona* stories and use the empathy map to understand what the characters are thinking, feeling, doing, and saying.

**Best Practice:**

Connect digital text to other forms of media - print, audio, or visual.

**Differentiation:**

Teachers use many techniques to differentiate instruction to meet the needs of different learning styles. Some examples of differentiation used in Highlights include:

- Lexile levels
- Student-focused—Individual and/or small group
- Listen to book read aloud with words highlighted, or choose to turn off audio

**Assessment:**

Read more about three ways to assess Social Emotional learning in this [Edutopia article](#).

## Showing Empathy– Highlights Library

### Home Assignment – Challenge Activity

Parents,

Today your child used a digital resource called Highlights Library to listen to, read, and discuss an eBook that deals with empathy. They learned how to navigate the digital tools that are provided to help them comprehend information, along with class discussion.

Please have your child share with you the Highlights Library *Ask Arizona* digital story they read today and retell the story. Also, please take a few minutes to explore other *Ask Arizona* stories. You can find them by following these directions.

**Best Practice:**  
Teachers, caregivers, and parents should communicate frequently about the use of digital text. Parent and child should complete the Challenge Activity together.

1. Have your child go to [www.infohio.org](http://www.infohio.org). Select the Grades K-5 button. Select Highlights Library.
2. Use the search box and type in *Ask Arizona*.
3. Your child can show you how to read the eBook with or without audio and text highlights. Talk with them about why they might use both of these options.
4. Talk with your child about empathy and how the *Ask Arizona* series can help with this important social emotional characteristic.

Thank you for helping your child love to read. For more digital resources that you can use at home, visit [www.infohio.org](http://www.infohio.org).

Sincerely,

Teacher Name