

# PRE-SCHOOL TO K-2 RESOURCES

# BAXTER'S CORNER BOOKS

## LESSON PLAN (1 hour)

### "Gerome Sticks His Neck Out"

Gerome can relate to not fitting in,  
and so, he helps Tajo. Let the friendship begin!

Author L.S.V. Baker

**Summary** Even though Gerome is shy when he finds himself in trying situations, he finds courage he didn't know he had to speak up. **Compassion** is so important in today's world. **Compassion** goes beyond feelings of sympathy and empathy and puts them into action. *Gerome Sticks His Neck Out* focuses on doing the right thing to help others even when it is hard.

#### Materials & Resources

1. *Gerome Sticks His Neck Out* story book
2. Magazines and newspapers (create a folder of pages in advance to hand out to children)
3. Poster board or construction paper
4. Scissors - kid friendly
5. Glue
6. Markers and/or crayon
7. Puppet (optional or make your own)

**Implementation** Time: 30 minutes

#### Learning Context

Baxter's Corner Engagement Tip:

Create excitement throughout the week leading up to the event by planting clues about the characters and the mystery reader(s).

#### Procedures

- **Before Reading**  
Conversational questioning: Ask "What is a bully? How does it make you feel when you see this happen?" Next, set the purpose: "As you listen to the story, think about how Gerome's actions make Tajo feel. Is this feeling compassion for others?"
- **During Reading** (*Pretend the puppet is reading*)  
Think Aloud: As you read, pause to talk about things you notice on several pages of the book. For example, "I'm wondering why they are poking Tajo with a stick from page 20. I think Tajo feels scared and alone."
- **After Reading**  
Check for Understanding: Use the *GoBeyond* section after the story to ask and answer questions on pages 39-40 about the story and prepare for the activity below.

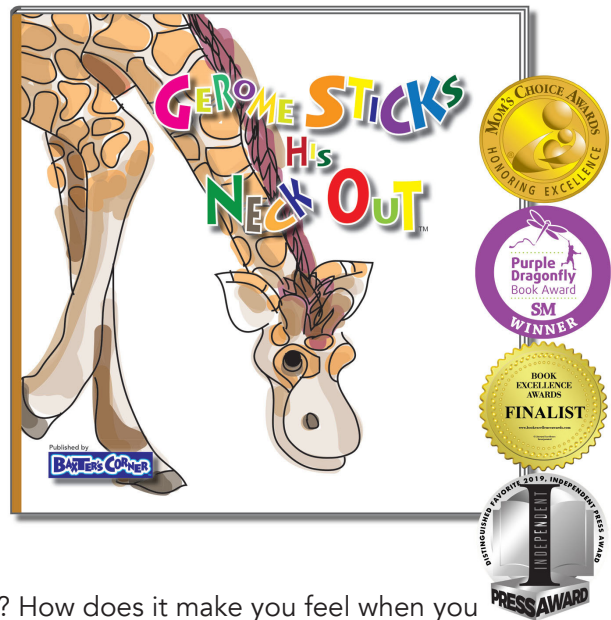
**Activity** Time: 20 minutes

Each child will create an Amazing Me poster using the provided materials. Use the *GoBeyond* section to see examples from pages 45-47. As the children create, ask them about their posters.

**Share-Out** Time: 10 minutes

Give each student the opportunity to share their Amazing Me posters with the group.

Reread this story in several weeks or months using different questions and activities from pages 37 to 49.



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