

Zigzag

Read Aloud Guide

Themes: Perseverance, Acceptance, Anti-Bullying

Book Brief: When the doll maker creates Zigzag from clothing scraps, she promises that "some child will love you." Her promise gives the strange-looking doll hope. But the other dolls and stuffed animals in the shop don't want such an ugly toy hanging around, so they force Zigzag to leave.

Author:

Robert D. San Souci

Illustrator:

Stefan Czernecki



Before Reading

The Cover: Ask students to make a prediction about the story based on the cover.

The Pictures: Take a brief picture walk and ask students what they notice.

Prior Knowledge: Ask, "Have you ever felt left out of a game or a group of classmates or friends?"

Vocabulary: Frontload Tier 2 words using the accompanying [Vocabulary Guide](#).

Purpose for Reading: "As we read, think about how Zigzag felt around the other dolls and animals. How did Zigzag feel? What did Zigzag do to set out to find happiness and acceptance?"

During Reading

Check for understanding & make connections:

- Before meeting the other dolls, how does Zigzag feel about himself?
- When do you think Zigzag first felt important and demonstrated self-confidence? Can you think of two examples?
- Can you predict what type of lessons the little girl might learn from Zigzag?
- Now that Zigzag has found a home, how do you think his life will change?
- What will happen to Zigzag next?
- What are you learning from this story?



Think Aloud:

"I notice that at first Zigzag was happy to be with the others."

I'm wondering..."What changed to make Zigzag sad and lonely, but later happy?"

After Reading

Our Purpose: "What life lessons are we learning by reading the book, *Zigzag*?"

If your students enjoyed this book...

- Encourage them to continue to discuss it and refer to it in other lessons.
- Let them explore more about the topic by reading other books with similar themes, structure, characters, or content.

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Extension Activities



Compare and Contrast

Directions:

- Read aloud as a class both [Zigzag](#) and [Corduroy](#). Both stories have similar themes.
- Ask the class how they thought Zigzag felt throughout the story? Were those the same feelings that Corduroy experienced?
- Is it fair to judge someone based on their outside appearance?
- Compare the beginning, middle, and end of Zigzag's journey to that of Corduroy's. Make a class chart of the similarities and differences in their journeys.

Quilt Patterns & Colors

Directions:

- Show the students different pictures of quilts. Discuss the different fabric patterns and colors.
- Have the students draw their own "Zigzag" doll, using different patterns and colors.

Happy Ending

Directions:

- Write a happy ending story for Zigzag and the little girl. Include where they live, what they like to do together, and whatever else you want to add to the story's ending.
- Illustrate your happy ending story.