



ABC TK/Kindergarten

YEAR1

Book of the Month

Key Phrase



Title: Gustavo the Shy Ghost
Author: Flavia Z. Drago
Illustrator: Flavia Z. Drago
Publisher: Candlewick Press

Make a
Friend



BOOK SUMMARY

This book is about loneliness, bravery, and friendship. Gustavo is good at doing ghostly things like walking through walls, making objects fly, and glowing in the dark, but he is shy, and some things are hard for him to do. He wants to make friends with the other monsters, but whenever he gets close to them, he realizes that they can't see him. Gustavo loves to play the violin and decides to invite all the other monsters to a concert on the Day of the Dead.



FRAMEWORK

Social and Emotional Learning (SEL):

Self-Awareness (identify emotions, self-perception/identity, sense of self-confidence)

Social Awareness (tolerance, acceptance, belonging, and safety)

Developmental Assets:

Positive Identity - #37 Personal Power and #38 Self-Esteem

Developmental Relationships:

Challenge Growth - Expect my best, Stretch

Share Power - Let me lead, Respect me



GOALS

- Students will communicate feelings to help build friendships.
- Students will make friends by being kind.
- Students will learn about the celebration of the Day of the Dead or el Día de los Muertos.



KEY IDEAS

Gustavo the Shy Ghost is a book written to help students recognize and understand their own emotions and develop strategies to manage them. The story also explores how to learn to communicate feelings and needs effectively, which is an important social skill in building friendships. Learning how to navigate social situations and build positive relationships are important skills for school and in life.



CONVERSATION STARTER

For your second visit make sure to ask the teacher to provide name tags for the students. Sit in a chair in the front of the room. Have the students sit on the rug in front of you. Make an effort to learn the students' names.

- (Volunteer) Smile and say, "Hi, I am _____, your Project Cornerstone reader and I'm so happy to be back with you today. How do we start our lesson? Yes, that's right. We are going to chant *One Little Finger!*"
- *Put 1 finger of right hand and 1 finger of left hand and say:*
 - One little finger, one little finger
 - two little fingers tap, tap, tap (fingers tap each other.)
 - Wave them up high, wave them down low
 - Put them in your lap, lap, lap
 - Two little fingers, two little fingers, four little fingers, tap, tap, tap
 - Wave them up high, wave them down low
 - Put them in your lap, lap, lap
- (Volunteer) Bring out your puppet. "Do you remember _____, my puppet?"
- (Puppet) *"Wow, you are wonderful singers, and that song is like magic, because I see hands in laps, and it looks like you are ready to listen! I missed you! Raise your hand if you filled a bucket with kind words or actions." Have the puppet look around and acknowledge the raised hands. So, what are we doing today?"*
- (Volunteer) "Well _____, today we are going to read a story about a someone who is shy. We will talk about what to do when we feel shy, that we have trouble talking to others and asking them to play. Can you think about a time when this happened to you?"
- (Puppet) *"I remember a time when I felt shy. Raise your hand if you have ever felt shy before."*
- (Volunteer) "I see some raised hands out there. _____, tell me about when you felt shy."
- (Puppet) *Well, we had just moved to a new neighborhood, and I made a friend. My friend invited me to his birthday party. I was really excited, but when I got to the party, the only one I knew was my friend. I sat in the corner by myself. I was kind of hiding. I didn't know what to do. I almost felt like crying."*
- (Volunteer) "That sounds like a difficult situation, especially when you are in a large group where you don't know others. It can be hard to know what to do when you feel shy. Sometimes you must be brave. You can use positive self-talk like: I am brave. I am strong. Let's all say that right now together. ("I am brave. I am strong") Say it again, louder this time! ("I am brave! I am strong!"). Good job! What happened next _____? Did you leave the party?"
- (Puppet) *"No, I didn't leave. Someone came up to me and said "hi". They introduced themselves and I said "hi" back. They invited me to go in the backyard with them. I was still a little nervous, but I went."*
- (Volunteer) "See, you were brave!"
- (Puppet) *"Going to the backyard was brave?"*

- (Volunteer) "Yes, of course! You said you were hiding and felt like crying, but when someone asked you to play, you said "yes"! That is being brave. Do you still have times of shyness?"
- (Puppet) "Not so much anymore, now that I'm older, but I'll never forget how someone saw me and asked me to play when I was feeling shy. I try to do that now for others."
- (Volunteer) "That's a wonderful lesson and a wonderful story _____. Thank you for sharing. Speaking of wonderful stories, we are about to hear one. It's about friendship and a shy little ghost during a special holiday called el Día de los Muertos."
- (Puppet) "I've heard about Día de los Muertos-The Day of the Dead. This story sounds great!"
- (Volunteer) "Let's get to our story then. Say goodbye _____."

Return your puppet to the bag or container.



READ THE BOOK

Show students the book and read the cover and author's name.

- Say, "This book is called *Gustavo the Shy Ghost*. Look at the cover of this book. What do you think it is about? What does it mean to be shy?"

Read the book and show students the illustrations. You may need to define some terms from the story.

- Paranormal - Not explainable on the basis of normal experience.
- Day of the Dead - A Mexican celebration where families honor their ancestors.



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

As you read the book, you can stop and ask a question or have students respond in "all answer" questions.

1. What was Gustavo afraid to do?
2. What is a friend? What do friends do for each other?
3. What special talent does Gustavo have?
4. What made Gustavo glow?
5. Show me a thumbs up if you have a special talent.
6. Have you ever celebrated the Day of the Dead or a similar holiday to honor your ancestors? If yes, stand up and stretch to touch the sky.



ACTIVITY OPTIONS

TK

Friendship Bean Bag Toss

Materials: 1 bean bag or a ball

- Toss the bean bag from hand to hand and sing: (to the tune "Did You Ever See a Lassie?")
I have a good friend, a good friend, a good friend,
I have a good friend and his/her name is _____.
- Then toss the bean bag to the child who was named. Have the child toss it back to the adult. Repeat until every child has their name called.
- If you use a ball, students can sit in a circle and then the ball can be rolled to each student.

TK

Freeze Dance Party

Materials: music, way to play the music

1. Have students stand up and invite them to dance when the music starts.
2. Explain that when the music stops, they should freeze. Practice until it's easy for students to do.
3. Once they're comfortable with the basic freeze dance, add variations:
 - **Freeze in a specific pose:** Ask students to freeze in a particular pose (e.g., animal, superhero, object)
 - **Freeze with a partner:** Have students find a partner and freeze in a creative pose together.
 - **Freeze and make a sound:** Have students freeze and make a specific sound (e.g., animal sounds, musical notes).
4. After a few moments of fun, be sure to adjust the music and help students calm down to close the lesson. Thank them for learning with you and becoming better friends today!

TK/K

Hidden Ghosts

Objective: To reinforce classroom expectations and promote positive social interactions.

Materials: Cut-out paper ghosts (one for each expectation), Markers or pens

1. Discuss with your classroom teacher specific expectations they'd like to reinforce.
2. Write each expectation on a separate paper ghost.
3. Place the ghosts in various locations around the classroom.
4. Explain to students that there are hidden ghosts in the classroom that need help becoming better friends, just like Gustavo.
5. Ask for one student volunteer to search for a ghost.
6. The volunteer searches, with classmates offering help if needed.
7. When the ghost is found, read the expectation aloud and discuss its importance.
8. Continue the activity until all ghosts are found.

Additional Tips:

- **Visual Cues:** For students who may struggle with reading, use visual cues (e.g., pictures, symbols) alongside the written expectations.
- **Peer Support:** Encourage students to work together and help each other find the ghosts.
- **Choice of Expectations:** Allow students to choose which expectation they want to focus on or create their own ghost message.
- **Extend the Activity:** After finding all the ghosts, discuss how these expectations can be applied in other classroom settings or real-life situations.



CLOSING

Make this part short and impactful.

- Today we talked about ways to make a friend or be a friend.
- If you can think of one way to make a friend, show me a thumbs up.
- Excellent! Now we are going to count to 3 and say, "You are a friend to me."
- Wave goodbye, friends.



SCHOOL WIDE EXTENSIONS

Papel Picado

Materials: light weight colorful paper, like tissue paper (10x10 or smaller), scissors, tape or glue, string of yarn, pen



Talk about the Day of the Dead. It is a traditional holiday celebrated throughout Mexico and Central America to honor those who have departed. These are moments of celebration and should not sadden or scare us. It is actually the opposite; a colorful, positive, upbeat, family centered holiday that allows us to remember relatives and friends who have died but who live in our hearts and in our memories.

One way to celebrate is to make a simple papel picado. This activity works best pairing young students up with their older buddies.

- Start with a square of tissue paper. Fold the square in half and then in half again the same direction. You can pre-fold these if desired.
- Make small cutouts along the bottom of the long rectangle in any shape, not cutting deeper than 1 inch. For younger children use the pen to mark where they should cut.
- Unfold and see what you've done.
- Fold the paper in half from side to side, then fold it in half from top-to-bottom, just to the bottom of the border you've created.
- Cut out shapes from the sides of your folded paper. Use the pen to draw shape guides if needed.
- Open the paper to see the pattern.
- To assemble the banner, fold the top edge down, over the string of yarn and attach each paper with tape or glue.

Friendship Drawings

Materials: drawing paper, crayons, markers, or paint

Have students draw a picture of something they like to do with a friend. Remind students what Gustavo did with his friends at the end of the book. Ask them to name some things they do together on the playground, in class, and at home.

Let them use paint, markers, crayons. Walk around and ask them to tell you about their picture. Write down what they say. You can put the finished drawings in a class book, post on a bulletin board, or send home with the TK/K family letter on the back.

