Big Al

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- Draw by numbers
Activity Guide

BIG AL
Written and illustrated by Mercer Mayer
Ages: All ages
Themes: Friendship, Acceptance, True to oneself
Total playing time: Approximately 21 minutes

SUMMARY
In a tale that emphasized the importance of character, rather than appearance, Big Al, a knobby, gnarly fish, has trouble getting other fish to judge him on his merits but finds a way to show his true colors.

OBJECTIVES
- Students will make ASL - image - text connections.
- Students will learn the value of friendship and independence.
- Students will expand their ASL vocabulary by 20 new signs.

BEFORE VIEWING DISCUSSION
- Ask the children what kind of fish live in the sea?
- Discuss the many different kinds of fish and that each one looks and behaves differently.
- Do children look different?
- Do you behave different from each other?
- Discuss the importance of accepting others even though they might be different.
- Is it OK to tease people who are different?

AFTER VIEWING ACTIVITIES
Story Retention:
- Did Big Al change his colors?
- At the end of the story did Big Al have lots of friends?

Signing Practice
- Review and practice the ASL vocabulary.
- Ask the students what additional signs they learned while watching the story.
- Sit in a circle and have each student demonstrate a sign. Ask the other students to copy and guess what sign it is.

Spelling Practice:
- Simultaneously voice and sign various words from the story or vocabulary list while the students spell the signed word.
- Review the vocabulary 1 word at a time asking students to sign the word as it is signed on the monitor.

Life experience:
- Have the students been to the ocean?
- Do they like to swim?
- Do they sometimes get teased or tease others?
- How does that make them feel?

Other:
- Complete all workbook activities

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THERE'S SOMETHING IN MY ATTIC, by Mercer Mayer

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Flash Cards

Directions: Cut out flash cards and have children practice signing the words. They might need to review the DVD vocabulary.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CLEVER</th>
<th>GILLS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CRY</td>
<td>LONELY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FISHERMAN</td>
<td>LOOKS LIKE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FORGET</td>
<td>NONE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FRIENDLY</td>
<td>ROW OF TEETH</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Complete the sentences

Directions: Complete the sentences. If the students need help challenge them by demonstrating the proper sign before showing them the written word. All words used are from the vocabulary/flashcard list.

1. So Big Al was _____________ and cried big _____________ ___________ into the big salty sea.

2. But Big Al had _________________.

3. But Big Al was also very, very, _________________.

4. Big Al even changed his color one day so he could look like he belonged to a _________________ passing by.

5. Just when Big Al was starting to be sure that he would never have a single friend, _________________.

6. He was _________________!

7. Those _________________ took one look at him, and threw him right back into the ocean.

8. When the clouds of ________________ cleared away, all the other fish were gone.

9. Big Al _________________ all about being ________________, and he forgot all about being sad.
Word Scramble

Directions: Unscramble the words below. To help the students you might consider demonstrating the proper sign before showing the correctly spelled word.

1. yrc: ____________________________
2. nads: __________________________
3. enon: __________________________
4. kcstu: __________________________
5. sraet: __________________________
6. tsurt: __________________________
7. hsierfman: _______________________  
8. ytsla: __________________________
9. ewest: __________________________
10. eezsnd: _________________________
Word Cross

Directions: Find the words hidden in the grids below. The list of words hidden is listed to the left of each grid. The first grid is easier.

CLEVER
CRY
FORGET
GILLS
NONE
SALTY
SAND
SWEET
TEARS
TRUST

R U W L S G Y S M M
NE V L A I T Y K Q
A N V L N L L Y P I
E I O E D L A R Y T
F H L N L S S C L E
S O E G E C B J O E
Y R R L A I T Z S W
R V A G V D M G H S
X E Q E E T R U S T
C Z S V T T F U A Z

FF J V O H R K D N K P E G T
Z I G V Y O T F H E D S G I R
FR S P O T R S H S Z N U L U
ROW H C I L Q Y O R E A L S
PD EN E P P A H M E U E S T
PD H N C R O T S E V A K N L
U H D G Q M M Y Y T E M Y O S
SL ONE L YA E H L R O T M
Y C H T E E T W N I C K E K J
W T H S W E E T K N S G C V Z
Y Y E O U G F E W G R U J S P
S R E A O K K E O O T H M S L
A A K H R L C I F S Z S I W N
D C A Y J S E N O N P I U J Z
C S H V T R J N I E E F J H E