

SPACE CASE

SPACE CASE

by Edward Marshall, illustrated by James Marshall (Dial)

Themes: Friendship, Halloween, Humor

Grade Level: K - 4

Running Time: 13 minutes

SUMMARY

Space Case is an exciting book about a space visitor from another planet who just happens to land on earth on Halloween night. As the children trick-or-treat, the space visitor's curiosity prompts him to follow them on their adventure and participate in their Halloween traditions.

Eventually, the space visitor meets up with a boy named Buddy, who befriends the creature. The two friends learn to communicate, in their own curious way, and even spend the next day in school together. At the end of the story, when Buddy finds himself in a pickle in school, the space visitor rushes in to save the day. A story of common friendship involving two most uncommon friends!

OBJECTIVES

- Children will explore the concept of friendship.
- Children will investigate Halloween night traditions.
- Children will consider what they know about space and space travel.

BEFORE VIEWING ACTIVITIES

Talk with children about what they know about "outer space." Ask:

- What do you think the universe is like beyond our planet?
- How do people travel into space?
- What have astronauts found on their travels through space?
- What do you think you would see if you traveled to the moon?
- What kinds of life do you think might exist on other planets? What do you think those life forms might look like?

Follow-up this conversation by asking children if they have ever dressed up as a space creature for Halloween. Encourage them to talk about their Halloween costumes and Halloween party or trick-or-treating experiences.

AFTER VIEWING ACTIVITIES

Encourage children to talk about the things they enjoy doing with their friends. Help them see that although they may not look exactly like their friends, or enjoy exactly the same activities, they still have wonderful experiences with these friends and share many thoughts and feelings. Encourage children to investigate the things they like about their friends and the ways in which a friend can be helpful and comforting.

Have a classroom Halloween party. Help children create costumes by decorating paper grocery bags. Have children help decorate the room for a Halloween party with black and orange crepe paper and paper pumpkins. Play some spooky music, invite other groups of children in your

school to join the party, and voila!—a Halloween party at Halloween time or anytime!

Share pictures of space travel with children. Talk about the work of astronauts and those that work to explore the universe beyond our planet. If possible, visit museum or library exhibits about space travel. When you return to the classroom, supply children with empty paper towel rolls, construction paper, glue, and paint that they can use to create their own space rockets. Later, have children move their "rockets" through space, explaining to the classmates the things they encounter as they race through the universe.

Other videos and films about friendship and Halloween, available from Weston Woods include:

FRIENDSHIP:

YO! YES? by Chris Raschka

THE ISLAND OF THE SKOG by Steven Kellogg

A WEEKEND WITH WENDELL by Kevin Henkes

OFFICER BUCKLE AND GLORIA by Peggy Rathmann

HALLOWEEN:

BY THE LIGHT OF THE HALLOWEEN

MOON by Caroline Stutson, ill. by Kevin Hawkes

A DARK, DARK TALE by Ruth Brown

GEORGIE by Robert Bright

TEENY-TINY AND THE WITCH WOMAN

by Barbara Walker, ill. by Michael Foreman

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