# The New Bird in Town

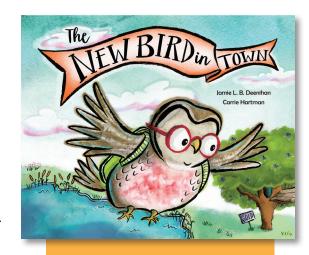
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#### **Book Summary**

When Owl moves to a new neighborhood, he can't wait to make friends. But when he invites the other forest animals to his tree-warming party, they misinterpret his intentions. With the help of Skunk, who knows how much first impressions can stink, Owl and his neighbors learn that everyone deserves a chance to be known.

Everyone wants to belong and be known. Giving students regular opportunities to get to know each other leads to the creation of a positive online class-room community. Activities that allow students to share about themselves will foster the practice of essential listening skills and help to build empathy. Here is a structured activity for students to share about themselves with classmates.





#### Who Remembers?

Consider using this activity after reading the story to reinforce strategies that can be used to learn more about someone else.

Goal: To share about a favorite place and to remember what others shared SEL Skills Focus: Social awareness (respect for others, empathy)

#### **Opening:**

- 1. Gather students for an online whole-class meeting.
- 2. Tell students they will go around the virtual circle, each taking a turn to share a favorite place and briefly explain why. (The teacher may need to prompt because the order of the students may differ on various technological devices. Options include: alphabetically by first name, alphabetically by last name, or randomly calling on the next student.)
- 3. Then they will play a game called "Who Remembers," so they will need to listen carefully to what their classmates share.
- 4. Brainstorm examples of favorite places with students.

#### **Body:**

- 1. Be the first sharer in order to model using a complete sentence and keeping the "why" succinct. For example, "My favorite place is my front porch because I like to read there."
- 2. Have students take turns (see options above) sharing their favorite place and briefly explaining why.
- 3. After everyone has shared, challenge the class with four or five "Who remembers . . . ?" questions. For example, "Who remembers whose favorite place is the library?" or "Who remembers what was shared about favorite places at home?"

#### Closing:

- 1. Invite students to share their strategies for remembering what classmates said.
- 2. Revisit pages 16–19 when Owl meets Skunk. Ask students to share ways in which these two characters get to know each other better. (Some ideas: asking questions, listening to each other, apologizing for assumptions/misconceptions, and sharing about themselves.)
- 3. Ask students to share examples of when they met someone new and how they got to know them better.

## **Specifications:**

32 pages

11" x 9"

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Color

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### This book addresses the following social and emotional learning skills:

- Welcomes or invites others to join in
- Independently recognizes when others need help
- Understands the importance of being polite and kind
- Takes risks to learn new things
- Willing to independently resolve conflicts with peers
- Can recognize the value in being open and honest with others

