

Old Friends

by Margaret Atiken

Created by:

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Book Summary

A little girl named Marjorie wants a friend, but all the kids in her neighborhood and school don't like the same things as her. She tries to find a person, like her grandmother, who enjoys the same things. She finds the community center, but gets stopped at the front desk because she is too young for the Senior Citizen Club. On her way home she gets an idea to disguise herself as a granny. Then she goes back to the club and goes inside. She walks around making new friends with the older citizens. Everything is going well until they do the Cha Cha Cha and her disguise falls off.

Read Aloud Questions

Why do you think Marjorie misses her grandma so much? Where do you think her grandma might be?
Where do you think the senior center will not allow children to visit?
What do you think Marjorie is going to do since she cannot go inside?
How do you make new friends?
What examples can you find that are signs of kindness?
What might have happened if Marjorie had not been determined to visit the senior center?
What do you think we can learn from this story?
Explain what the Cha Cha Cha is.

Book Activity

Materials: Chinet paper plates, scraps of yarn and colored paper, scissors, glue, markers

Directions

After reading the book aloud, review the word “disguise” and discuss how Majorie disguised herself as a way to make new friends. Discuss things they might try to make a new friend in the senior center. What are the characteristics of a good friend? What are activities that you do with your friends?

Pre-cut eye holes in the paper plate. Give each student a plate and ask them to create a disguise that would allow them to get inside the senior center to make a new friend. Students may use markers and other materials to make a yarn wig, etc.

After the students have completed the masks, they may put them on and practice making new friends with the other members of the “senior center” group.



Additional Resources

- [25 Fun Friendship Activities for Kids](#)
- [Friendship Activities and Lessons to Build Classroom Relationships](#)
- [35 Fun Friendship Activities, Lessons, and Games for Kids](#)

Meet the Authors



Tatum Jones is a 13-year-old girl who loves to play sports. She was born in Wichita Kansas. She is in 7th grade at Augusta Middle School. She loves to write things about herself. Her favorite one is about her last basketball game. In her free time she loves to hangout with friends and family. Her favorite color is pink. She loves Christmas and Halloween, but Christsmas is better in her opinion. Her favorite food is macaroni and cheese.



Gabriella McGaffin is a seventh grade student at Augusta Middle School. She was born and raised in Augusta. She plays softball, volleyball and sometimes basketball. She's played four years of softball, one year of volleyball and two years of basketball. She has seven siblings, three sisters and three brothers, but they have all moved out. She is the youngest child.