





# CONQUERING KINDERGARTEN STORYTIME SIDEKICK

**Books are a great way to teach reading and social-emotional learning (SEL) skills.**

Here is how you can support children as you read books together:

1. Ask open-ended questions about the SEL skill in the book.
2. Respond to children’s answers and build on them to start a conversation.
3. Connect the SEL skill in the book to real experiences in children’s lives.

Try the strategy above with the story *We Don’t Eat Our Classmates*. In this book, children see the value of the SEL skill Respects Rights, Diversity, Feelings, and Property of Others, as they hear about a dinosaur named Penelope who learns to treat others with kindness and respect. After reading the story, follow the steps below.

GUIDE	 <b>ASK A QUESTION</b>	 <b>RESPOND AND EXTEND</b>	 <b>CONNECT TO EXPERIENCE</b>
	EXAMPLE	<p><b>You say:</b></p> <p><i>What happened to Penelope that made her stop eating her classmates?</i></p>	<p><b>Child says:</b></p> <p><i>The fish bit her!</i></p> <p><b>You say:</b></p> <p><i>Exactly! Walter bit her and then she knew how it felt to be eaten.</i></p>



## Want more examples of this strategy?

	<b>1 ASK A QUESTION</b>	<b>2 RESPOND AND EXTEND</b>	<b>3 CONNECT TO EXPERIENCE</b>
<b>EXAMPLE 1</b>	<b>You say:</b> <i>What happened after Walter bit Penelope?</i>	<b>Child says:</b> <i>She stopped eating the kids.</i> <b>You say:</b> <i>That's right. She understood how they must have felt when she ate them so she stopped doing it.</i>	<b>You say:</b> <i>Can you think of a time when you did something that might have hurt someone else? What could you do differently next time?</i>
<b>EXAMPLE 2</b>	<b>You say:</b> <i>After Penelope started being kinder to her classmates, how do you think she felt?</i>	<b>Child says:</b> <i>Better!</i> <b>You say:</b> <i>Me too. She seemed sad and lonely at the beginning but once she was kinder to her classmates, they were kind back to her and she seemed much happier!</i>	<b>You say:</b> <i>When was a time that you showed kindness to a friend or sibling and they were kind back to you? How did you feel?</i>



## What else can you do to teach the skill in this book?

**Step inside my shoes.** Before they develop respect for others, children must learn how to take the perspective of someone else. Encourage children to step into another person's shoes by asking them questions about the point of view of a character in a book.

## Want to learn more about this strategy?

Research shows that reading and talking with children about books helps them build both reading and SEL skills. To get the most out of each book, read it again to support children's understanding.

It is also helpful to make real-time connections between children's experiences and the books they know. Point out when you see something in your real life that reminds you of a book.

Conquering Kindergarten aims to help families and teachers support children's development of 14 key SEL skills through evidence-based tools. For more tips, book recommendations, and reading guides, **visit [CKPhilly.org](http://CKPhilly.org)**.



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