Specific Goal of Lesson: To teach acceptance and appreciation of people different than ourselves.

School: Atlantic Highlands Elementary School
Grade Level: Second
Teacher: Patti Bruno

Name of Story: The Boy Who Drew Cats
By: adapted by Toni Murphy
Country of Origin: Japan
Tolerance Themes: Everyone is equally valuable and worthwhile, everyday heroes and sheroes, and self-confidence.

First Step
Introduce yourself and the Leos. Establish a connection with the children. Explain the difference between reading and telling, discussion questions and/or statements. Also set up the rules for being a good “story listener.”

Hi everyone. My name is Noel and I’m a college student. We have a lot in common because we both go to school and have teachers that teach us important lessons that will help us in life. I’m here today to tell you a story. I’m not going to read it. The difference is I am going to use a story that comes from another country and tell it in my own words, using my voice and body. I also need to introduce you to two important people who will be helping me a lot today and . Now, in order for me to be a good storyteller, I need you to be good story listeners so while I’m talking I need you to be quiet. After I am finished, we would love to answer all of your questions and hear what you have to say.

2 minutes-Noel

Second Step
Connection to tolerance: Tolerance definition/questions/statements.

Have you ever heard of the word tolerance? What do you think it means? Tolerance is accepting people for the things that make them different from you. What makes you special? What makes all people the same? Would you like it if people didn’t like you for the things that made you different? How would you feel?

Approximately 2-3 minutes, depending on students’ responses.
Noel

Third Step
Story Set-up Statements:
Now, I am going to tell you the story of *The Boy Who Drew Cats*. This tale comes from the country of Japan. It's about a small boy who is your age that gets made fun of because he is different than the rest of the people in his town. However, you will see by the end of the story that boy becomes the hero and those who were mean to him feel very foolish.

**TELL THE STORY**
10-15 minutes, Noel

**Fourth Step**
Mid-story question to be asked by Leo:

"Has there ever been a time when you felt different? Why did you feel this way? Was it a bad or good feeling?"

One of the two Leos will ask the mid-story question. The children will be asked to exchange responses with their neighbor. The other Leo will walk around to make sure the children are exchanging experiences.

2 minutes, Leos

**Fifth Step**
After-telling questions to be asked by both Leos:

1) What was the story about?
2) How did you feel about the way the kids treated the little boy in the beginning? What about what the adults said?
3) What happens when we judge people before we get to know them?
4) What did they do after the boy saved the day? What lesson did they learn?
5) Was there ever someone like the priest who made you feel important or special? How?
6) How does this story show us that people who are different than us are just as important and special as we are? How should we treat people who are different than us?
7) How did the boy defeat the monster even though the monster was bigger?
8) What made the boy a hero? (Qualities)
9) What are some ways you can be a hero or she-ro?
10) The little boy was good at drawing—what are some things you are good at?
11) What makes people special?

10-15 minutes, Leo
Sixth Step

Description of Activity:

Now, for the rest of our time today, instead using the word “different”, we are going to use the word “special.” We are going to draw pictures just like the boy in the story. Instead of cats, we are going to draw a portrait of ourselves doing something that makes us special. After we are done, each of you will be able to tell the class about your pictures.

20 minutes

Seventh Step

Wrap up/closure:

What did you learn today?
What country does this story come from?
What will you do with your picture?
Will you tell this story to someone? Who will you tell it to? Why?

Final statement:

I had a great time with you today. __________,__________, and I hope you had fun with us and learned that what makes people different makes them special, and all people are equally important. We hope that you tell this story to your friends and family. Thanks everyone. Have a nice afternoon!

5 minutes, Noel