

The Recess Queen

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Scholastic Inc.

Materials

White drawing paper, markers, stapler, 12-inch ruler, fat marker, rubber eraser or other small soft object with a flat surface.

Activities

Ask the children to draw a picture of a backpack and what's inside it. Have them draw three items or games they might have in the backpack that could help them make friends. Older children may be able to write descriptions of their backpack and its contents, as well.

Try asking the children to create (written, illustrated or both) a thank-you letter from Jean to Katie Sue.

Here's a fun see-saw activity: On a flat surface, place a fat marker under the 6-inch mark of a 12-inch ruler. Have a child place a small soft object (such as an eraser) on one end of the ruler. Stand back! Now ask a child to smack his or her hand down on the other end of ruler. Ask the group if they saw something like this happen in the story. Talk with them about the need for care and consideration when playing with others.

Joel Says

Before the book is read, ask...

How can you tell, by looking at front and back covers, who is the queen? What do you think is happening? What is that coming out of the girl's backpack? What do you think will happen in the story?

Stop during the book and ask...

On the first page, what do Jean's arms and the children's arms and hands tell you about how they are feeling? Why do you think Katie Sue swings and kicks and jumps before Jean does? What do the words in the book tell you about how Jean treats the other children?

After reading the book, ask...

When did Mean Jean stop getting her way? What do you think it means when Katie Sue calls Jean "Jeanie Beanie"? How does the ending of this book make you feel?

