



Stick Man

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NOVEL STUDY

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SUMMARY

This story is about a stickman who becomes separated from his family. He faces a variety of obstacles in his attempt to be reunited with his family in the family tree. Stickman experiences a number of emotions throughout the story ranging from sadness to frustration to happiness. A number of animals try to help him along the way and he is eventually taken home by Father Christmas.

CHARACTER REVIEW

Stick Man

Stick Lady Love

Stick Children Three

Father Christmas

SEL THEMES IN THE BOOK

- Feelings – happy, sad, disappointed, frustrated, anger, calm
- Self - control
- Friendship

STUDY QUESTIONS

PAGES 2 AND 3

- **Look at stickman, stick lady love and the stick children three's faces. How do you think they are feeling?** Use the feeling face cards to match their expressions.
- **How do you feel when you're at home with your family?** Ask the children for some examples of how they feel and what types of things make them feel that way.
- **Why do you think stickman is going for a jog? How does exercise make us feel?** Could stop here and do a little exercise (star jumps, stretches, etc.) and then ask the children to look at each other's faces and decide how the exercise has made everybody feel.

PAGES 4 AND 5

- **How do you think stick man feels when the dog picks him up? Look at his face.** Refer to the feeling face cards.

PAGES 6 AND 7

- **How do you think stickman feels when he's running away from the dog?** Ask the children if they have ever felt scared. Is it a comfortable or uncomfortable feeling?

PAGES 8 AND 9

- **The frog tried to warn stickman about the swan, why did he do that?** Refer to the *What friends do* poster.
- **Is the swan thinking about Stickman's feelings when she weaves him into her nest?**

PAGES 10 AND 11

- **The sheep is looking at stickman while he drifts out to sea. What do you think he's thinking?**

PAGES 12 AND 13

- **The seagull tries to warn stickman about the dad. Why did he do that?** Refer to the *What friends do* poster.

PAGES 14 AND 15

- **How do you think stickman feels when he's saying these things?** Explain that he is feeling sad and fed up. Repeat one of the sentences, emphasizing tone of voice, and see if the children can copy you. What body language would stickman be using? See if a confident child could show you (stamping feet, clenched fists, crossed arms, etc.)



- **He doesn't want to be used for all of these things, what do you think he wants to do?**
- **He seems quite angry when he's saying these things, what could he do to help him calm down?** Refer to *Turtle* poster. Do Turtle as a group or ask confident children to show the group what stickman could do.

PAGES 16 AND 17

- **How does stickman feel here? He's been trying his best to get back to the family tree but he keeps getting picked up and taken further away.** Use feeling face cards (use less than the amount provided – happy, sad, angry, frustrated) and see if the children can match the card to his face. Draw their attention to the blue card and say that it is an uncomfortable feeling.

PAGES 18 AND 19

- **It says that stickman is lonely. Has anyone here ever felt that way? Is it a comfortable or uncomfortable feeling?** If the children aren't sure, use the feeling face cards to find out. See if some children can give you an example of a time that they felt lonely. If the children are unable to do this the staff can give an example of a time that they felt lonely and also use some examples from the setting that day.

PAGES 20 AND 21

- **Does the little girl mean to hurt stickman?** Explain that sometimes we hurt people by accident. What should we do/ say when this happens? Give an example from the setting that day.

PAGES 22 AND 23

- **While stickman is dreaming of his family his face changes. What is different about his face?** Ask the children to think about their families. Draw the children's attention to some of the children's faces and discuss what they can see – glistening eyes, big smile, etc.
- **Stickman was frightened when he heard the noises above and he could have ran away and hid. He chose to help the person stuck in the chimney, what type of person is stickman for doing this?** Refer to the *What friends do* poster.

PAGES 24 AND 25

- **How does the cat feel?** The cat is frightened/ scared/ afraid. What does a frightened face look like? Pass a frightened face around the circle and draw attention to specific children. Adults to give some examples of things that they are frightened of – spiders, wasps, thunder and lightning, etc.
- **How does stickman feel?**
- **How was stickman an 'excellent friend'?** Give some examples of being an excellent friend from today – 'When Billy was crying for his mummy, Ella gave him a cuddle. Ella was an excellent friend to Billy today'.



PAGES 26 AND 27

- **Stickman chose to help Father Christmas when all he really wanted to do it find his way home. This is a kind thing to do. Can you think of a time when someone has been this kind to you?** If the children are unable to do this the staff can give some examples from the setting that day.

PAGES 28 AND 29

- **Stick lady love and the stick children three look very sad. When was the last time you felt sad and what happened to make you feel that way?** Pass a sad face around the circle. Adults to draw attention to some of the children's faces and discuss what they're seeing – watery eyes, a frown, looking at the floor, etc.

PAGES 30 AND 31

- **The family are finally back together again. Look at their faces, are they feeling comfortable or uncomfortable feelings?** If the children are unsure, use the feeling face cards to match the emotion and see which colour card it is on.

SUPPLEMENTARY ACTIVITIES

- Take the children on a stick man/ family tree hunt
- Create a stick man using sticks found on the hunt or toilet rolls and brown paper – what feeling face will he have?
- Using natural materials, make a shelter for stickman until he's able to find his way back to the family tree
- Story sack
- Investigation tray using natural materials and laminated pictures from the story. Put photocopied and laminated feeling face cards here too.
- Use stickle bricks or similar to make stick people
- Stick man pictures using paint or glued sticks from the hunt. What feeling face will stickman have?
- Story sequencing. Have feeling face cards to hand so that the children can match how stickman is feeling throughout the story.
- Photocopied and laminated pictures from the story and feeling face cards. Match the feeling face cards to the pictures.