

SUSIE STORY

For dealing with cliques and the one girl that no one wants to spend time with. This exercise will "sensitize" them to the problem. First, make a paper doll about 2 feet tall and color her. Then, as you tell the story, wherever it says RIP, you will rip off a piece of the doll, starting with one elbow, then the next, then the knees, etc. In the second half of the story you tape her back together again.

Let me introduce you to a girl named Susie. Susie is an ordinary girl, just like you. There are things she likes and doesn't like, just like you. There are things that she is good at doing and things that she's not so good at. She has friends and a family, just like you.

When people are nice to Susie, she's happy, and when they're not, it hurts her feelings. There is one very special thing about Susie though - when you hurt her feelings, you can actually see that she's hurt.

Let's listen to a story about one day in Susie's life:

Our story starts on a school day, when Susie's mother wakes her up for school. Well, Susie was kind of slow to get up that morning, and her mother said "Quit being lazy and get up. I wish you were more like your sister, she's never lazy in the morning." And that hurt Susie's feelings. RIP.

Well, Susie got up and got dressed, and went downstairs for breakfast. Her older sister was already eating breakfast, and she looked up when Susie came in. She made a face and said "Are you really going to wear that shirt with those pants? You look dorky in that." And that hurt Susie's feelings. RIP.

After Susie ate her breakfast, she went outside to wait for the school bus. When it came, she got on and started to sit down next to her friend Jane. But Jane said, "You can't sit here. I'm saving this seat for Polly." And that hurt Susie's feelings. RIP.

At school that morning, Susie couldn't find her homework to turn in. She looked in her bookbag and her desk, but she couldn't find it. Her teacher was standing by her desk, waiting for her to find it, and in front of the whole class, her teacher said, "You are so disorganized. I think you'd lose your head if it wasn't attached." RIP.

Finally, it was time for recess. Susie loved recess. On the playground, some of her friends were organizing a game of kickball. Susie wanted to play, but the captain of the first team said "I don't want you on my team. You run too slow." RIP. The captain of the other team said, "I don't want her either. She can't even kick." RIP. And another kid said, "Why don't you go play with somebody else?" RIP. And the other kids laughed. RIP.

Well, Susie had had a rough day, so she just sat on the playground and cried. After a minute, the other kids noticed how hurt she was, and they said, "Oh, no! Look what we've done!"

So they tried to make Susie feel better.

"It's OK, Susie, you can be on my team," said the captain of the first team. And that made Susie feel a little bit better. TAPE.

"You can be on my team if you want," said the captain of the second team. TAPE.

"We want you to play with us," said another kid. TAPE.

"I'm sorry I laughed at you," said another. TAPE.

Back in the classroom that afternoon, Susie's teacher complimented her on her artwork for a project the class was working on. "You're so creative," she said. TAPE.

On the bus that afternoon, Jane and Polly asked Susie to sit with them. So she sat with both of her friends, and they talked and laughed all the way home. TAPE.

Later that afternoon, Susie's sister asked if Susie wanted to go to the mall with her. Of course, she said yes, and they had a great time trying on clothes and giggling with each other. TAPE.

And that night, when Susie went to bed, her mother gave her a hug and a kiss and said, "I'm sorry I was grouchy with you this morning. I really do love you!" TAPE.

And so Susie went to bed.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR THE SUSIE STORY

- How do you think Susie feels now that she is back together again?
- How do you think she felt when she started the day?
- Does she feel the same as she did when she started the day?
- What happened to change her feelings?
- What do you think happened in the story that hurt Susie's feelings the most? Why?
- What was the best thing that happened to her? Why?
- Susie also has scars that people don't really see because they are on the inside. They are there because people hurt her feelings. Has anyone here ever had any "scars" like the kind that Susie has? What happened to get them?
- Think about a time when you might have given a "scar" to someone that hurt them on the inside. What can you do so other people like Susie don't have so many scars at the end of the day?

The lines are scars, they will fade over time, just like physical scars, but they may never go away. Remember, once you've said something, you can never take it back!

The Susie Story was written by Beth Ranado of Comming, GA, to use with her troop.