

Boasting

Objectives

- To recognise that it is important to have an honest opinion of ourselves but not to boast about things that are not true.

Resources

No resources needed.

Links

- As part of Literacy, children could research other folk tales, traditional tales, tales from other cultures and myths that use boasting as a theme. Examples include fables by Aesop ('The Tortoise and the Hare', 'The Peacock and the Crane', 'The Boasting Traveller') and the Greek myth: 'Perseus the Boasting Hero' and 'Arachne and Athena and the Spinning Contest'.

Assembly type

- Teacher-led class or whole key-stage assembly.
- Discussion and story-telling.

Background

Boasting is like lying because you are not telling the truth about yourself. This is a good assembly to follow on from one where awards, certificates or praise has been given to the children.

Introduction

- Remind anyone who has recently been given a certificate that they have every right to be proud of what they have done and pleased that they have done it well. Now boast, by saying: 'But of course, I could have done it better. In fact I am much better than you are at everything!'
- Then tell the children that what you just said was not true. You were boasting. Tell the children what you think you are good at, and say that if you were praised for these things, you would be pleased and think that these were honest opinions of you.

Main assembly

- Read this story:

Jack and his wife, Mary, were arguing. Jack said he was much better than Mary at milking the cows, ploughing and feeding the chickens. Mary said she was much better than Jack at shearing the sheep, making the cheese and feeding the chickens!

They decided to have a competition to prove who was best. They would stay silent, and the first one to speak would lose. Mary got fed up and went to see their neighbour, who had just made a pot of stew.

In the meantime, a thief broke into the house and saw Jack sitting there in silence. The thief walked round Jack, taking things from the cupboards. On his way out, he took Jack's hat from his head.

The neighbour sent her son over with a bowl of stew for Jack. When the boy arrived, Jack was still in the middle of the room. He was pointing to the bare cupboards and to his head, over and over again. 'He's mad,' thought the boy, 'but he obviously wants me to pour the stew over his head!' So that's what he did! The soup ran down Jack's face and clothes, and on to the carpet.

At that moment, Mary came back, looked at the empty cupboards and looked at Jack, covered in stew. She shouted out: 'What has been happening here?'

Jack leaped off his chair and shouted: 'I've won, I've won! You spoke first, I'm the best!'

A folk tale from Turkey, retold by Roger Smith

Closing thought or prayer

Ask the children if Jack really did win? Did his boasting really get him anywhere? Say that having an honest opinion of ourselves, and not thinking we are always better than other people, is the best way to behave.