

# Empathy Challenge



## Common Core Standard

Describe how characters in a story respond to major events and challenges.

## Basically this means your child can....

Tell how characters in a story respond to parts in a story.

## Background Information:

Your child is developing reading comprehension skills, the ability to understand what they read. One way that reading comprehension is developed is by understanding what characters are going through in a story or empathizing with the characters by sharing their feelings.

## What You Need:

- Storybook
- Connecting with Characters page (see following)
- Pencil

## Activity Instructions:

In this activity, your child will read a story and choose one character to relate to. They will be challenged to think of three ways that they are the same as the character, three ways they are different, and one way in which they can understand or empathize with the character's actions.

1. Read a storybook with your child.
2. After reading, ask your child to name all the characters in the book.
3. Tell your child that they will be practicing empathy by comparing themselves to one of the characters in the book. Explain that empathy is the ability to understand and share the feelings of others.
4. Have your child pick one character to empathize with.
5. Give your child the Connecting with Characters page. Have them come up with three ways that they are the same as the character, three ways they are different, and one way in which they can empathize with the character's actions. For example, if a character is having a hard time finishing their homework, your child could empathize by remembering a time that they had a hard time with their homework.

## Extension:

When reading books, have your child empathize with the characters. Ask the following questions:

- Why do you think they did that?
- What would you do in that situation?
- Can you understand why they would do that?



