



Jovi Giraffe Discussion Questions

Here are a few possible questions to ask while reading *Jovi Giraffe*. We recommend choosing questions you think the child or children would most benefit from and only asking a few questions so as to avoid detracting from the story.

1. After reading the second page that shows Simi Squirrel, "How do you think Jovi felt when he didn't look at Simi Squirrel?" "What do you think he was thinking?"
2. When Jovi talks to Limbani Lion and says he would be too busy bending down to listen to Limbani, "Why do you think Limbani Lion is asking Jovi why Jovi doesn't look at him?"
3. When Jovi says he feels shy, "Do you ever feel too shy to look at someone?" "Do you think other people feel shy?"
4. When Limbani practices facial expressions with Jovi and frowns, "What feeling does Limbani's face show?" Practice making facial expressions.

After reading the story:

1. "Let's pretend we're Jovi's friends. How do you think we would feel if Jovi didn't look at us while we were talking?"
2. "Can you think of a time when someone wasn't listening to you? How did it make you feel?"
3. "What could Jovi do differently to show he's paying attention?"
4. "Jovi learned to look at his friends' eyes when they talked. Why do you think that's important?"
5. "How do you think his friends felt after he started looking at them?"
6. "Sometimes I forget to look at people when I'm busy. Does that ever happen to you?"

Activities:

1. Read through the emotion chart. Take turns making the facial expression for each emotion. Mirrors might be helpful.
2. Role play in pairs: "One partner will tell a story. The other partner will practice looking at their eyes while listening." After the role play, "What did you notice while you were listening?"
3. Charades of different emotions: Students take turns making facial expressions. The other students guess the emotion. Describe the shapes of the child's eyes and mouth.
4. Role play in pairs: "One partner will tell a story. The other partner does not look at the one who is talking. After the role play, "How did you feel when your partner didn't look at you when you were talking?"

Continued practice as needed:

1. Praise children: "I noticed you were looking at me while I was talking, just like Jovi learned."
2. Before school: "Practice looking at someone's eyes when they're talking to you today. See if it makes it easier or harder to listen to what they're saying." After school: "Did you practice looking at someone when they talked to you today? How did it go?"
3. "Remember how Jovi learned to look at his friends? Let's practice that while we talk about your day. "