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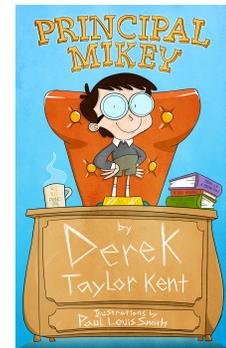
Lesson Plan for *Principal Mikey* Book

ELD Level: ADV (Gr. 3-6)

Book Title: Principal Mikey

Author: Derek Taylor Kent

Objective: Learn STEM concepts. Students will participate in an interactive read aloud, answer questions, learn advanced scientific concepts, and discuss the ethical dilemmas Mikey faces.

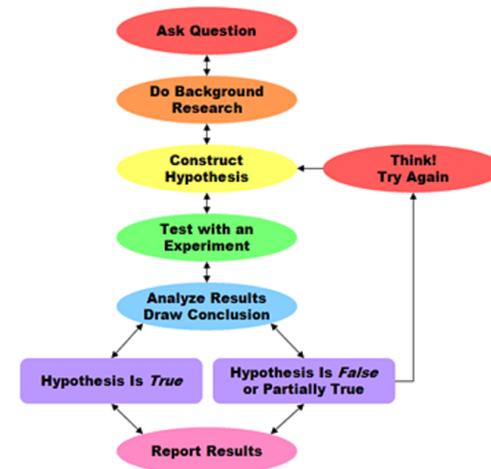


Problem Statement: This story is about a boy who loves to use science to solve problems and mysteries but is frustrated because nobody takes him seriously. But everything changes when the school principal puts Mikey in charge for two weeks when she is called away. Mikey is faced with mounting difficult problems, the crux of which is whether to change the school into everything the students want it to be, or take his job seriously and make them study for the upcoming tests that will determine the school's fate.

STEM CONCEPTS:

The Scientific Method. This is the method that every scientist in the world uses in their experiments that unlock the mysteries of the universe, discover new medicines, or create new inventions. Can you remember

Scientific Method



each part of the scientific method and what each step means?

- How does Mikey use the scientific method to solve the mystery of the car crashes at the beginning of the book?
- How does Mikey use the scientific method to locate the school's flu virus location?
- How might a scientist use the scientific method to determine if a new type of medicine will work?

ETHICAL DECISION-MAKING

Throughout the book, Mikey is confronted with a series of decisions. Sometimes chooses to do the right thing, sometimes the wrong thing, and sometimes the decision isn't so clear and there are pros and cons for each choice. Let's take a look at some of Mikey's choices and discuss if you might have made a different choice, what the consequences might have been, and if Mikey ultimately made the right decision or not.

1. When Mikey learns about the flu virus going around the school, he enlists Justin to help him discover the location of where the virus is coming from. Was this the right choice or the wrong choice?
 - Pros: Saving future students from getting sick.
 - Cons: He and Justin could expose themselves to the virus and get sick themselves. It's one thing to do it yourself, but should you pressure a friend into a dangerous situation?
2. One of Mikey's first acts as principal is to reverse the decision for his sister to be expelled from school, despite her being guilty of theft, because he believed the punishment was too excessive. Was this the right choice?
 - Yes examples: If you can help your family you always should. The punishment was too excessive so he is correcting an injustice.
 - No examples: The decision was already made by the real principal so he is undermining her authority. If his sister only receives a light punishment for theft, the students will continue to steal if they think it's not a big deal. His sister needed to be taught a lesson and because she got away with it, she continues to do bad things.
3. At first, Mikey wants to be popular, so he does things that he thinks the students will like, such as the petting zoo, the go-karts, the food fight, and pizza lunches. Were these the right decisions or should he have done things that might have made him less popular for the sake of student safety and so the teachers would still be able to have control?
4. When the media learns about Mikey being in charge, he becomes a celebrity, but then fails to give his best friend, Justin, any credit. How did that make Justin feel? Why do you think Mikey made changed so much in such a short period of time and forgot all about his friend? What should Mikey have said when the press showed up at his house?

5. At the end, Mikey is once again confronted with a decision as to whether or not to expel his sister when she has done something that truly deserves expulsion and also lies about it. Mikey seems to realize that he must now expel her because letting her off before led to her behavior getting worse instead of better. However, the decision ultimately lies in the hands of Vice Principal Sherman, Mikey decides to cover for her and lies to Vice Principal Sherman when he says that he ordered Tracy to trash his office. Do you think Vice Principal Sherman knew that Mikey was lying? Did Mikey do the right thing taking the blame for Tracy? Do you think Tracy has finally learned her lesson or will behavior be even worse moving forward?

CREATIVE ACTIVITY:

Congratulations! You have been appointed principal of the school!

Take fifteen minutes and try to think of the first three things you would do... but not so fast! Underneath each decision, you will need to make a PROS and CONS list. Try to think of 3 Pros and 3 Cons for each decision you make that will help you decide if it's the right choice or not.

EXAMPLE:

1. Make it allowed for students to bring their pets to school once a week.

Pros:

- It will be a lot of fun to have dogs and cats in school.
- Dogs and Cats can make sure there aren't any mice in the cafeteria.
- Big dogs can be like bodyguards and protect kids from bullying.

Cons:

- Dog and cats might chase/fight and get hurt.
- They might make messes that would be very gross in the hallways and classrooms.
- They would distract from learning and cause grades to fall.