

Classroom Activities for 'The Playground's Secret' from the book
"Stories For 6 Year Olds"

- Before reading the story, read out the title and have the children guess what the story might be about. Who will the characters be? What could the secret be?
- After reading the story, have the children write their own story based upon an adventure in their own school's playground.
- The children could do an acrostic poem for 'playground' or 'sunflowers'.
- Discuss the animals featured in the story. List. Have the children research, using books, internet etc, one of the animal characters and write five facts about it. They could also illustrate it/collect pictures. The children could present their report in a 'show and tell' session.
- Discuss other garden creatures. List. Discuss with children if they could talk to these creatures, what is a question that they would like to ask them. Have the children select a garden creature from the list. Have the children draw themselves with their chosen creature. In a speech bubble, they could ask the creature a question. Perhaps with a partner they could swap their drawings and the partner could write an answer in the creature's speech bubble.
- Discuss with children Larry's treatment of Pete. Who came to help Pete? Discuss with children what they what they would have done if that was their friend being bullied. Perhaps invite the school's anti-bullying officer to talk to the class about anti-bullying procedures.

- Have the children plant their own sunflowers. Perhaps they could record predictions about their sunflower and then compare it to actual results. For example the height that their sunflower may reach, how many petals their flower/leaves may have? etc All could be recorded in a journal which could be presented to the class.
- Perhaps the children could make their own sunflower by doing a collage of a sunflower with sunflower seeds and leaves of a sunflower. The stem could be drawn.
- Dramatisation. Children can make masks for the different characters. They could present the play to parents and other classes.

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