



Mind, Soul, and Comics Lesson Plan



HCPL Family Reading Group XV (Virtual)

Focus: Families and Relationships

Participants will be able to:

- Examine the concept of Families and Relationships by reading and discussing the book.
- Practice articulating thoughts and emotions by responding to prompts that relate character experiences to their own lives.

Materials:

- *Pea, Bee, & Jay: Wannabees* by Brian “Smitty” Smith
- GoToWebinar
- PowerPoint

Procedures:

Intro: Begin session with a brief introduction on the background and purpose of the reading group as well as the expected conduct of those involved, reminding participants that every feeling is valid and to be respectful of those with differing opinions and beliefs. Encourage everyone to participate in whatever way makes them feel comfortable. Introduce the representative from the school of social work, who will briefly discuss their role and ability to recommend additional resources to participants based on identified needs that may arise from the group’s discussion. Lead into the title discussions with a short description of the theme for this month’s group: Families and Relationships.

Session Activity: Book Discussion: Begin with a brief overview of the title, then propose the following questions to participants:

1. Despite all the pampering and admiration that comes with it, Bee doesn’t want to be queen. Instead, she’d prefer to hang out with her friends and go on adventures around the farm. What do you think Bee doesn’t like about being queen? Why would she prefer to hang out with her friends instead?

2. Jay says that before he met Bee and Pea, he was all alone. Because of this, he states that he doesn't understand what would be bad about having a big family, even if they are heavily involved in your life and embarrass you.

Would you rather have a big family or a small family? Why?

3. Pea and Jay convince Bee that even though they want to hang out with her, she can't just ditch her royal responsibilities as queen.

Have you ever had a time where you wanted to ignore your responsibilities to have fun? How did it turn out?

4. Pea, Bee, and Jay are able to save the beehive from the evil Lenny by using their individual strengths. Bee has the advantage of being queen, Pea can jump and do crazy flips, and Jay uses his size to smash through the hive.

How does being different from each other make us stronger? What are some strengths that you have that others might not?

5. Pea, Bee, and Jay are able to get the corn and potatoes on the farm to stop arguing by using the bees to create a symphony for them. The corn enjoy the sound of the bees buzzing, and the potatoes love watching them.

Have you ever had to come up with a compromise like this to come to an agreement with a sibling or a friend? How did it work out?

Be sure to give participants enough time to respond, but presenters should be ready with answers to help move the discussion forward, if needed. Allow the discussion to evolve naturally, using the questions as a guide to focus the conversation. A presenter not currently leading the discussion should take observation notes examining how much engagement each question elicits as well as how often participant responses reference the title under discussion. Towards the last ten minutes of the session, wrap up the discussion with a final overview of the title and the concept of Families and Relationships.

Conclusion: Thank participants for attending the session. Encourage everyone to complete a program evaluation survey. Remind them of the follow up instructional session that will continue to explore this month's theme.