



Make Friends With **19 Girls and Me**

by Darcy Pattison, illustrated by Steven Salerno
(Philomel, 2006, ISBN: 0399243364).

Activity Guide

These activities are suitable for children ages four to eight. They are intended for use in classrooms, libraries, bookstores and by homeschoolers. Some are short and can be completed in an afternoon, while others are suitable for extended study.

Story Discussion:

General:

What is imagination? How do you know when something is imaginary and when it is real? Discuss the difference in fiction and non-fiction writing. Draw something imaginary and something real.

Friends:

Tell what makes a good friend. Can boys and girls be friends?

What games do you play with friends?

Challenge for students: Try to make a new friend this week.

Brothers and Sisters:

Do you tease your brother or sister? Do they tease you?

What do you like about your brother or sister? What do you not like?

Kindergarten:

Talk about kindergarten. What do you do in kindergarten? What do you learn? What is the best part about kindergarten? The worst?

Food:

In their imagination, the kindergarten class from 9B eats many different foods. Talk about each food. Is it an imaginary food or a real food? If it is imaginary, what real food are they probably eating? Cook one of the foods from the book for lunch. (Example: fish sticks for piranha or spaghetti for space worms.)

Days of the Week:

The kindergarten class does something different every day of the week. Practice reciting the days of the week. Talk about activities that happen on each day. Learn poetry about days of the week. What is your favorite day of the week? Why?

Geography:

In their imagination, the kindergarten class from 9B traveled to many different places. Use a globe to find Mt. Everest, China and the Amazon River. Talk about other places you've heard

about and find them on a globe. Give each child a world map and have them draw lines from their home to the places visited in the book.

Talk about where outer space is located. How do you get there?

Talk about places you would like to visit and why. Choose a place to visit. What things would you need to take with you?

Neighborhoods:

Talk about the geography of a school building. This kindergarten class is in Room 9B. Does your classroom have a room number? Draw a map of the school and label the room numbers.

Math:

Counting 1-20. Each of the pictures has 19 girls and one boy. Count the children on every page.

Music:

Sing counting songs.

Resource: songsforteaching.com

Look also for songs about cultures, geography, etc. For example, songsforteaching.com has a song about Mt. Everest.

Writing Activities:

Write the days of the week.

Write the numbers from 1-20. Do this with both words and numerals.

Write names of 19 friends.

For each day of the week, write something fun you would like to do.

Write simple poetry, such as couplets, about your friends.

Science:

Animals:

Talk about the animals in this story.

Is the Yeti real or imaginary?

What is a piranha?

Look at pictures of tropical birds (wild and freaky birds!).

Space and Space Travel:

Talk about space and space travel.

Can you build a skyscraper so tall that it will reach into space?

Technology:

Talk about car engines and race cars.

Hold a race with model cars.

Art:

Draw pictures of wild and freaky birds.

Draw an imaginary place.

Draw 19 friends and yourself.