

A Bad Case of Stripes

 [scholastic.com/teachers/lesson-plan/bad-case-stripes-lesson-plan](https://www.scholastic.com/teachers/lesson-plan/bad-case-stripes-lesson-plan)

I use *A Bad Case of Stripes* as a read-aloud during the first week of school to prompt discussion about why we worry about what others think, bullying, and learning to respect and accept differences in others.

Students examine cause-and-effect relationships in a story. Students relate words to pictures.

Materials

- *A Bad Case of Stripes* by David Shannon
- Chart paper

Set Up and Prepare

Ask the students what worried them as they got ready for the first day of school. List their responses on chart paper.

Directions

Discuss the problems that Camilla was having and possible solutions to the problems. Also take time to notice details in the illustrations.

Step 1: Take 15 minutes to list worries on chart paper.

Step 2: Take 30 minutes to read and discuss the book, and to look carefully at the illustrations.

Step 3: Take 15 minutes for follow-up discussion.

Here are some sample questions to use:

- Why didn't Camilla want to let others know that she liked lima beans?
- What do you notice in this picture?
- How does Camilla feel when the children laugh at her?
- Do you think that the kids are bullying Camilla?

Step 4: Take 30-60 minutes to create the Extension Activity drawing.

Extension Activity

Have the students draw a large picture of themselves and decorate it with their own "Bad Case of...." You may want them to introduce themselves with this drawing. They could decorate with something they like. For example, Gayle loves to fish, so she decorates herself in the drawing with water and fish for a "Bad

Case of Fishing."

Create a "We Respect Our Differences" display with the drawings.

Supporting All Learners

This book addresses the issue of being worried about what others think about you. It also lends itself to talking about how it makes people feel when others laugh at them or tease them.

Related Resources

- [*Whoever You Are*](#) by Mem Fox
- *Those Terrible Toy-Breakers* by David McPhail

Assignments

- Discuss how Camilla worried about how others felt about her at the beginning of the story and then how she felt at the end of the story.
- Referring back to the list of student worries, determine possible solutions to their worries. These may lead to rules for the classroom.
- Discuss what respect means. What would disrespectful behavior look like? What would respectful behavior look like?
- Subjects:
Bullying Experiences, Cause and Effect, Expressive Writing
- Duration:
1 Class Period