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Publisher: Ormiston Press
Author: Kris Sheather
Illustrator: Kris Sheather
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www.krisheather.com

The Green Goggles

STORY PLOT

Pete wakes up excited because it's his birthday. When he begins to open his presents he is disappointed with the gifts. However he still smiles politely. He tries to make the best out of the socks by making a sock puppet, and uses the pencils as monster teeth. His Grandpa gives him a pair of green goggles and encourages Pete to try them on. Wearing the goggles he looks outside and discovers his backyard is transformed into a jungle. He leaves the house and begins an adventure. When called back for birthday cake his Grandpa asks about the goggles. Pete replies that he is now in love with exploring.

CONCEPT DEVELOPMENT

When Steve Jobs, founder of Apple Computers, said he didn't let his children use ipads, Kris was curious and researched the reasons behind his decision. When she looked at the results of studies and research into screen time affecting childhood development, she understood that although ipads and technology can be great learning tools, over or incorrect use could potentially harm a child's development. Instead of creating an anti-ipad themed story, Kris chose to write about embracing nature, and the joys of outside play using imagination. As the catalyst for this theme Kris created Pete, a boy who expected the immediate gratification of presents. Pete also provided an opportunity to explore emotional reactions and behaviours.

DISCUSSION POINTS & ACTIVITIES

After reading the story to the class and discussing the illustrations, explore the two main themes.

- What do people expect at their birthday party?
- How do they feel if they receive something they don't like?
- What is the polite and courteous way to respond?
- What is gratitude and appreciation and how do we express it?
- Why do people say please and thank you?
- What do you see when you go outside? What kind of activities can be done outside?
- How does it feel to run and play on grass or under trees?
- Why are plants important to humans and our planet?
- Do people know everything about our world? Or is there still more to discover?
- What kind of things would you need on an exploration expedition?
- Students can draw what their backyard may have looked like before their community was built
- Gather leaves and items from nature, stick them into an album, practice writing by naming them
- Pretend giving a present to another student to practice polite responses (showing gratitude)
- Practice saying thank you in other languages