

VIDEO DISCUSSION GUIDE

FOR USE WITH
PROGRAM 3

“GROARK LEARNS to LISTEN”

In the Youth Guidance Video Series



with the Popcorn Park Puppets™

THIS PROGRAM TEACHES CHILDREN:

- * How poor listening habits can cause serious trouble between people.
- * Why it is so important to be a good listener.
- * How to be a good listener.

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**Use in classrooms, libraries, youth groups,
or show it to your kids at home.**

This delightful series of video programs teaches young children valuable lessons that will help them get along well, work out conflicts peacefully, and prevent violent behavior.

In each episode, Groark, an affable, childlike dragon puppet, gets into a tense situation with some of his puppet friends. But after he discusses the problem with a group of real elementary school children, he applies what he has learned and succeeds in bringing about a peaceful, positive solution.

You can greatly enhance the effectiveness of this video by following it up with group discussions, writing assignments, learning activities, and by enlisting parental support. This guide is designed to help you in your efforts.

This video is highly effective at triggering group discussion. Please refer to page 4 for questions to ask your young viewers both before and after showing the tape.

While this discussion guide may appear to be written for classroom teachers, any group leader or parent will find it a useful tool for getting the most out of this video program.

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THE STORY

Groark is working on a dance routine for a talent show with two friends. His failure to listen to their ideas and concerns upsets his friends, causes misunderstandings, and eventually results in one of them being injured. When Groark is told to go away, he turns to a group of real children who help him understand how his poor listening habits caused such trouble and how he can become a better listener. Groark asks his friends for a second chance, and his greatly improved listening skills make everybody happy.



HOW TO BE A GOOD LISTENER

1. **LOOK** at the person who is talking.
2. **LISTEN** and don't interrupt.
3. **ASK** questions to find out more.
4. **NOD** or say something to show you understand.
5. **REPEAT** what you heard in your own words.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Questions to ask before showing the tape.

1. Has anybody ever gotten mad at you because you weren't listening to them? What happened?
2. How does it feel when someone won't listen to your ideas or opinions?

Questions to ask after showing the tape.

3. Why do you think Essie and Nubbs were upset with Groark?
4. Why wasn't Groark listening?
5. What are some reasons why people don't listen?
6. What's wrong with not listening when someone is talking to you?
7. How can not listening create hard feelings between friends?
8. Is there a difference between hearing and listening? What is the difference?
9. Have you ever had a bad misunderstanding because you didn't listen carefully - or because somebody didn't listen carefully to you?
10. How can listening carefully help friendships?
11. When somebody is not listening to you, what can you do to get them to listen?
12. Did the kids in the discussion part of the program say anything that you strongly agree or disagree with?
13. What did you learn from this video?

GROUP ACTIVITIES

1. Model listening skills by having one student describe a favorite activity and tell why he or she likes it. After two or three minutes, restate what was said by saying, "I heard you say that..." Have the students tell you ways that you showed you were a good listener.

2. Have a directed art lesson. Give each student a piece of paper and pencil, crayons or markers. Have students draw as you give each instruction. Describe, step-by-step, how to draw a simple animal, building, or scene. Let students share their drawings.

Older students can try the activity in pairs. One partner describes the picture while the other listens and draws it. They then switch and the first partner draws while the other describes a picture. When the pictures are completed, the drawings can be shared with the class or posted on a bulletin board.

3. Create a group story by having the students sit in a group. One person starts to tell a story. After a certain time limit, or when the student gets to a point in the story that it can change, the next person continues the story. This goes from one person to the next around the circle until the story is completed. Discuss how listening carefully to what each person added to the story helped the group tell the story. This can be done with younger children by having each child contribute one or two sentences or ideas to the story.

WRITING ASSIGNMENTS

1. Have students keep a daily journal of how listening or not listening affected their day. Younger children can draw pictures in their journals. Discuss at the end of the day some of these experiences.
2. Read a story to the class that illustrates listening or not listening skills. Have the students draw pictures or write a different version of the story to illustrate how the story would have changed if the characters had been listening better. Stories such as Goldilocks and the Three Bears, The Three Little Pigs, Little Red Riding Hood and other fairy tales can be used, emphasizing how the characters did not listen to instructions and how that caused them problems. For older students, be aware of other literature they are reading and point out situations in the stories where listening skills are important.
3. Older students can create a newspaper with each student being a reporter. Each reporter interviews another student, asking about such topics as accomplishments, family experiences, travels, or favorite activities, foods, movies, television programs, etc. The interviews are written up and "published" in the newspaper. After it is distributed to the class, have a discussion to find out if the reporters accurately listened and reported what they were told. Discuss how listening skills were helpful in completing the assignment.
4. How many ways can you think of to show someone that you aren't listening? Make a list.

HOME ASSIGNMENTS

To enlist the involvement of parents, make copies of the Parents' Page (opposite) and send them home with the children. Tell the children to discuss the video with their parents, and to perform the following activities.

1. Take home Groark's How to be a Good Listener page and post it in a place where your family can see it. Discuss it with your parents or other adult family members.
2. Draw a picture or write about a situation that shows good listening skills being used at home.
3. Ask family members to tell you about a time when they (or somebody they know) caused trouble by not being a good listener. Write or draw a picture about it.

(Copy this page and send it home to the parents.)

DEAR PARENT,

Your child is learning some valuable skills which will help him or her get along well with others, solve conflicts peacefully, and avoid violent situations.

The current lesson is about being a good listener. We have shown your child a video entitled *Groark Learns to Listen*, which presents a puppet show and discussion about how poor listening can lead to misunderstandings and hard feelings.

Here are some things you can do to help your child learn to be a good listener.

- ✎ Ask your child to tell you about the video program and what he or she learned from it.
- ✎ Discuss with your child the steps he or she learned for being a good listener.
- ✎ Share situations you or other family members have experienced that show consequences from not listening. Discuss how being a good listener could have helped the situation.
- ✎ When situations arise where good listening can help, demonstrate good listening skills and remind your child how to be a good listener.
- ✎ Notice good listening behavior in your child and acknowledge it.

ABOUT GROARK & MCGEE

Randel McGee found Groark in 1978, and they have been inseparable ever since. Through the magic of ventriloquism and puppetry, Randel and Groark mesmerize audiences of all ages, and Groark's child-like personality and dragon antics open kids up to the world of their imaginations. Though Randel and Groark are multi-lingual, singing and punning in many languages, their performances transcend language and cultural differences and bring people together through the common ties of laughter, learning, and song. Their delightful presentations encourage kids to be kind and thoughtful, to respect themselves and others, to make ethical choices, and to work out their conflicts peacefully and fairly. As Groark likes to say, *"there's no need for fussin' and fumin', whether you're dragon or whether you're human."*

Randel McGee received a B.A. in children's theater in 1979. He has worked as an artist-in-residence, a literature consultant, university instructor, and storyteller. In 1991 and 1992 he was selected as U.S. representative to international puppet festivals in Japan and Korea, and he and Groark have toured those countries as well as most of the U.S. In addition to his puppetry, Randel performs in costume as Hans Christian Andersen, telling stories while cutting paper designs. He lives in central California with his wife and five children.



Randel and Groark may be reached at 1-800-359-5437.

LICENSE AGREEMENT

This license grants you some very useful rights regarding the use of this videotape, including public performance rights:

You **may** show this video to groups of any size, for educational, cultural, entertainment, or counseling purposes, as long as you do not charge admission.

You **may** play this video on your institution's closed-circuit television system within a single building or campus. This right **does not** extend to multiple schools within a district.

You **may** permit viewers to watch this video on your premises, or lend it to them to take out.

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These restrictions have the force of federal law, which provides severe civil and criminal penalties for infringements. (Title 17, United States Code, sections 501-506).

If you have any questions regarding this license agreement, or your intended use of this tape, please contact:

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GETTING ALONG with GROARK™

FIVE GREAT VIDEOS FOR
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CHILDREN
(available on DVD)

Video 1: Groark Learns To
CONTROL ANGER

Video 2: Groark Learns To
WORK OUT CONFLICTS

Video 3: Groark Learns To
LISTEN

Video 4: Groark Learns About
BULLYING

Video 5: Groark Learns About
PREJUDICE

For purchase or free preview, please contact
your video supplier, or call:

Live Wire Media
1-800-359-5437
1-415-564-9500