

VIDEO DISCUSSION GUIDE

FOR USE WITH
PROGRAM 5

“GROARK LEARNS ABOUT PREJUDICE”

In the Youth Guidance Video Series



with the Popcorn Park Puppets™

THIS PROGRAM TEACHES CHILDREN:

- * What prejudice is.
- * What is wrong with being prejudiced.
- * How to avoid being prejudiced.
- * The benefits of being open to different kinds of people

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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 and his friends are planning a party. One of the friends convinces the others not to invite the new kid in school, citing reasons that ring with classic racist beliefs. But when Groark learns that this friend doesn't even know the new kid, he turns to a group of real elementary school children for a lesson in prejudice. They discuss how people sometimes treat others unfairly because of race, age, gender, size, ethnicity and national origin, and why it's important not to pre-judge people. Groark takes this lesson back to his friends and they decide to include the new kid.



HOW TO OVERCOME PREJUDICE

- 🍏 **DON'T** pre-judge people. Get to know them as individuals before you decide whether or not you like them.
- 🍏 **TREAT** people the way you want them to treat you.
- 🍏 **STAND** up for people who are being treated with prejudice. Don't go along with the crowd when people are being unfair to someone.
- 🍏 **LEARN** about other cultures, countries, and peoples.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Questions to ask before showing the tape.

1. Are all of us here exactly the same? In what ways are we different? In what ways are we alike?
2. Are differences bad? Why or why not?

Questions to ask after showing the tape.

3. The kids in the discussion part of the video said Burna was being prejudiced. Do you agree or disagree? Why?
4. Why did Essie decide not to invite Wonker?
5. How did Groark feel about not inviting Wonker to the party?
6. How did Groark handle the situation with Essie and Burna? Was that a good way to do it? Are there other ways he could have handled it?
7. What is prejudice?
8. How is prejudice different from not liking someone?
9. How many different forms of prejudice can you think of?
10. Were any of the other characters in the video victims of prejudice? In what ways?
11. Have you ever experienced prejudice? In what way? How did you feel?
12. How do prejudiced people treat others?
13. How do people become prejudice? Where do they learn prejudice?
14. What would you do if someone acted prejudiced toward you?
15. What would you do if a friend of yours acted prejudiced toward someone else?
16. Did the kids in the discussion part of the program say anything that you strongly agree or disagree with?
17. What did you learn from this video?

GROUP ACTIVITIES

1. Discuss with the students how the following situations may be showing prejudice.

- Making fun of someone's weight.
- Not playing with someone because he or she can't run fast.
- Teasing people because they speak a different language.
- Calling people names because of skin color.
- Ignoring someone because he or she is in a wheel chair.
- Not letting a girl play with trucks because she's a girl.
- Not letting a boy take dance lessons because he is a boy.

2. Have the kids make self-portrait puppets. Use these puppets to role play prejudice situations. Have students find ways to handle those situations and change the prejudiced behaviors.

3. Play a sorting game. Have the kids group themselves according to one of these categories:

Hair color, Skin color, Eye color, Gender, Height (tallest and shortest according to a selected measurement), Month of Birthday, Birth places (all those born in the same state or city), Clothes (certain colors or styles), Likes or dislikes (such as colors, foods, music, etc.).

With each category, describe a situation that demonstrates an unfair situation. For examples, "What if today I only let those who had brown hair go out for recess. Is that fair?" or "What if today, only the girls could have lunch. Is that fair?"

After the game, discuss how prejudice is not being fair to others.

WRITING ASSIGNMENTS

1. To help understand the diversity of backgrounds in a classroom, students can interview a parent, grandparent, or relative about ways in which they celebrated holidays, traveled, lived, etc. Younger kids can then draw pictures to illustrate something they were told and share it with the class. Older kids can write a report about what they learned, illustrate it, and share it with the class.
2. Write about an individual who overcame obstacles of prejudice to accomplish something worthwhile. This could be a great political leader, a teacher, or even a family member.
3. Write a description of what you think Wonker is really like. Younger children can draw pictures and the teacher can list Wonker's qualities as the children describe them.
4. Write a letter to Groark telling him what you think of how he handled the situation with Burna and Essie. Do you have any advice you'd like to give him?

HOME ASSIGNMENTS

To enlist the involvement of parents, make copies of the Parents' Page (see next page) 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 Overcome Prejudice (page 3) and post it in a place where your family can see it. Discuss it with your parents or other adult family members.
2. Talk with your family about prejudice. Discuss experiences they may have had with prejudice and how it has affected them or their family.
3. For one week, keep a listing of television programs in which prejudiced comments or actions are shown. Discuss these with your family or class. How do these programs affect our views of each other and how we treat each other?
4. Select a person you do not know very well. Make an effort to try to get to know him or her. Learn about his or her culture or background. Try to find ways in which you may be alike.

(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 prejudice. We have shown your child a video entitled *Groark Learns about Prejudice*, which presents a puppet show and discussion about what prejudice is and how we can overcome it.

Here are some things you can do to help your child learn about prejudice.

- ✎ Ask your child to tell you about the video program and what he or she learned from it.
- ✎ Discuss with your child what prejudice is and what kinds of behaviors demonstrate prejudice.
- ✎ As you watch television with your child, help him or her identify language, dialogue, or actions that demonstrate prejudiced behavior.
- ✎ As your child deals with instances of prejudice at home or school, be open to discussing ways in which he or she can safely handle those situations.
- ✎ Help your child become sensitive to his or her own behaviors or language that might possibly be of a prejudiced nature.

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.

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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.

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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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Video 4: Groark Learns About
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PREJUDICE

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

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