

Understanding Different Perspectives Through The S.T.A.R. Strategy

Lesson Objective:

By the end of this lesson, students will:

- Understand the importance of considering different perspectives.
- Learn to ask questions rather than making assumptions about others' feelings.
- Apply the S.T.A.R. strategy (Stop, Think, Act, Reflect) to real-life situations involving different perspectives.

Materials Needed:



- Copy of Book 4 Chapter 3, *Bennie Learns About Different Perspectives*
- Pencils and markers
- S.T.A.R. Strategy Poster
- Activity 1: Perspective Role-Play Scenario Cards
- Activity 2: Perspective Art Activity Worksheet
- Home Connection Letter

Introduction to the Topic (10 minutes)

Greeting Outline:

- Welcome the children and have them sit in a circle (if applicable)
- Begin with a brief discussion on different perspectives.

Greeting and Circle Time Teacher Script

1. Warm Welcome and Opening Discussion:

- "Today, we're going to talk about something very important—understanding different perspectives. Have you ever had a time when you were sure everyone felt the same way you did, but later you found out they didn't? Maybe they had different ideas or feelings about something? When we understand how other people think and feel, we can work together better and have stronger friendships."



2. Discussion Starter

- "What do you think a perspective is?"
 - "Can you think of a time when you didn't understand how someone else was feeling?"
 - "Why is it important to ask people how they're feeling rather than guessing?"
- Introduce the S.T.A.R. Strategy:
- "Today, we'll use the S.T.A.R. Strategy to help us understand how thinking about others' perspectives can help solve problems. Remember, S.T.A.R. stands for Stop, Think, Act, and Reflect."

Read the Chapter (15 minutes)

Story Time Outline:



- Read Chapter 3 aloud. Pause at key moments to engage students and make sure they are following the story.
- Ask questions during key parts of the story.

Story Time Teacher Script:

Prepare the Students for the Story:

- "Today we'll read Bennie's Brave Breakthroughs, Chapter 3, *Bennie Learns About Different Perspectives*, where Bennie learns that not everyone thinks the same way he does."
- (Read the chapter aloud, pausing at key moments to ask questions and engage the children.)

Read the Chapter with Emphasis on Key Moments:

- **While reading**, pause during key moments.
- **Ask Questions:**
 - "Why do you think Betty doesn't want to play capture the flag?"
 - "How is Bennie feeling about playing capture the flag? Does he realize Betty feels differently?"

- "What is Sammy's suggestion when he notices Betty's hesitation?"
- "Why does Grandma say it's important to ask others how they're feeling?"
- "What do you think Bennie should have done when Betty first shared her idea?"
- "What happens when Bennie finally listens to Betty?"
- "What does Bennie learn about making assumptions?"
- "How does the group solve their problem and make sure everyone is happy?"
- "What does Grandma say about how our brains predict other people's feelings?"
- "How does the S.T.A.R. strategy help them solve the conflict?"

Chapter 3: *Bennie Learns About Different Perspectives*

It was a warm afternoon at the park, and Bennie and his friends were planning to play a game of capture the flag. As they gathered around to discuss the rules, everyone seemed excited—except for Betty, who stood off to the side, looking thoughtful.

"Alright, let's split into teams!" Bennie said, buzzing with excitement.

But before they could start, Sammy noticed Betty's hesitation. "Hey, Betty, are you okay?" he asked.

Betty shrugged. "I guess... I was just thinking maybe we could play a different game today. We've played capture the flag a lot lately, and I thought it might be fun to try something else." Bennie, not noticing Betty's uncertainty, waved it off. "But capture the flag is the best! Why would we change it up now?"

Betty frowned a little. "Well, I just thought—"

"Come on, Betty," Bennie interrupted. "Let's just play. It'll be fun!"

Sammy, noticing Betty's expression, started to feel like something was off. He didn't understand why Betty didn't seem as excited as everyone else. But instead of assuming he knew what she was feeling, Sammy remembered something Grandma had taught them about perspectives: that it's important to ask questions when you're not sure what someone else is thinking or feeling.

"Hold on, Bennie," Sammy said. "I think we should ask Betty how she's feeling. Just because we're excited doesn't mean she is. Maybe she has a different idea or perspective."

Bennie paused, realizing Sammy was right. "Oh... I guess I didn't think of that."

Turning to Betty, Sammy asked, "Can you tell us what you're thinking, Betty? You seemed like you had something else in mind."

Betty hesitated, but with the support of her friends, she spoke up. "I know we all like to capture the flag, but I was kind of hoping we could play something different today, like hide and seek. We've been playing the same game for a while, and I thought it might be nice to try something new."

The group nodded, starting to understand. Bennie, feeling a little sheepish, scratched his head.

"I didn't realize you were thinking that. I thought everyone was excited about capture the flag, but I guess I was just guessing."

Grandma, who had been sitting nearby, smiled and joined the conversation. "That's an important lesson, Bennie. Sometimes, when we don't ask, we assume that others see things the same way we do. But everyone has different experiences and perspectives, so it's important to check in with them and not just guess how they're feeling."

Sammy nodded, remembering what Grandma had said, "It's like how our brains make predictions. We think we know how other people are feeling based on what we see, but unless we ask, we might be wrong."

"Exactly," Grandma said. "You can't 'read' people's minds or assume you know what they're thinking just because of how you feel. Everyone's brain is predicting things differently, and their emotions might be based on something you don't know about."

Harriet chimed in, "So if we don't ask how someone else is feeling or what they're thinking, we might miss their perspective entirely."

"That's right," Grandma agreed. "By asking questions, you get a clearer picture of what others are experiencing. And in social situations, that's especially important because it helps you work together in a way that respects everyone's needs and feelings."

Bennie looked at Betty, feeling a bit guilty. "I'm sorry, Betty. I just assumed you wanted to play capture the flag like the rest of us, but I should've asked you what you wanted to do instead." Betty smiled. "Thanks, Bennie. I don't mind playing capture the flag sometimes, but it's nice to know my thoughts matter too."

Sammy spoke up, "How about this? We can play a round of capture the flag, and then we can switch to hide and seek. That way, everyone gets a chance to play what they want."

Betty's face brightened. "That sounds perfect!"

The group agreed, and soon they were happily running around the park, alternating between their favorite games. As they played, Bennie realized how important it was to take a step back and consider that his friends might feel differently about things. Just because he was excited didn't mean everyone else was, and that was okay.

As the afternoon wore on, Grandma watched proudly from her bench. She knew that Bennie, and the others had learned a valuable lesson that day—one that would help them not only in their friendships but in all social situations. By asking questions and taking time to understand other perspectives, they were building stronger, more respectful relationships.

Later, as they all sat down for a water break, Bennie reflected on what he'd learned. "I guess it's easy to get caught up in what you're feeling and forget that your friends might see things differently. I'll try to remember to ask from now on."

"Me too," Sammy agreed. "When we understand each other better, everything works out smoother."

Grandma smiled warmly. "You've all done a great job today. Social awareness is about recognizing that each person has a unique perspective. By taking the time to ask questions and listen, you make sure everyone feels heard and valued."

From that day on, Bennie and his friends practiced asking each other about their thoughts and feelings, rather than assuming they knew what was going on in each other's minds. They learned that by understanding different perspectives, they could create more harmony in their friendships and make better choices in social situations.

And every time they played a game or worked together, they remembered to ask before guessing, knowing that understanding each other's perspectives made their friendships even stronger.

Post-Chapter Teacher Script

- **Teacher:** “Being aware of others means that you recognize that other people have different perspectives and ideas from you. ”

Post-Chapter Questions

Ask these questions to help students reflect on the chapter and connect it to their own experiences:

- "Why did Bennie assume that everyone wanted to play capture the flag?"
- "How did Sammy help Bennie realize that Betty had a different idea?"
- "What would have happened if they hadn't asked Betty how she felt?"
- "What do you think Bennie learned about making assumptions?"
- "How can we ask others how they're feeling instead of assuming we know?"
- "What did Grandma teach the group about predicting others' feelings?"
- "How can the S.T.A.R. strategy help when we don't understand someone's perspective?"
- "Have you ever felt like Betty, where you wanted something different from the group?"
- "What's an example of a time when you didn't ask about someone's perspective and how that made things harder?"
- "How does understanding different perspectives help us make better choices?"

Do an Activity (20 minutes)

- **Students will** practice understanding different perspectives by engaging in collaborative role-play and reflective art activities. They will apply the S.T.A.R. (Stop, Think, Act, Reflect) strategy to consider others' feelings and experiences and identify ways to build empathy and solve interpersonal challenges.

Please choose from the following 2 activities:

Activity 1: Perspective Role-play(15 minutes)

Introduce Activity

"Now we're going to practice understanding different perspectives through role play! I will give you some different situations, and you'll work in small groups to act them out. In each role play,

remember to ask each other about your feelings and use the S.T.A.R. strategy to find a solution."

Activity Instructions

1. Divide students into small groups.
2. Assign each group a scenario that involves different perspectives. Examples include:
 - One person wants to play a game, but another wants to read a book.
 - A group project where each person has a different idea on how to proceed.
 - A birthday party where one child feels left out.
3. After role-playing, ask each group to explain how they used the S.T.A.R. strategy to understand each other's perspectives and solve the problem.

Activity 2: Perspective Art Activity (15 minutes)

Introduce Activity

"Now we're going to create something special to remind us of the importance of asking about others' perspectives. On your paper, draw a picture of a time when you had a different idea or feeling from someone else. Underneath your picture, write a sentence about how asking questions and using the S.T.A.R. strategy helped you understand their perspective."

Activity Instructions

1. Ask students to think of a time when they had a different idea or feeling from someone else.
Examples might include favorite foods, favorite movies, favorite games/activities...
2. Have them draw a picture showing the two perspectives.
3. Underneath their drawing, they will write how they used (or could have used) the S.T.A.R. strategy to understand the other person's feelings.
4. Allow students to share their drawings with the class, if they'd like.

"Now let's take a few minutes to share. Who would like to tell us about the role-play your group acted out? What were the different perspectives in the situation? How did your group use the S.T.A.R. strategy to understand each other?"

(After several groups share, transition to the art activity sharing)

“Now, would anyone like to show their drawing and read what they wrote about understanding someone else’s feelings? What helped you see the situation from a different point of view?”

Review and Reflection Teacher Script



1. Gather in a Circle for Reflection:

- “Let’s all come back together in a circle.”

2. Closing

- “Why is it important to understand how someone else might feel?”
- “Can you think of a time when someone understood your perspective—and how it made you feel?”
- “What can we do if we forget to stop and ask about someone else’s feelings during a disagreement?”
- “Great work today! You all showed that even when we don’t agree or see things the same way, we can take time to stop, think, act kindly, and reflect on how we can work through those moments together. When we ask questions and try to understand others, we make our classroom and friendships stronger.”

Home Connection Letter

1. Sending Information Home:

- “Before you go, I have a letter for you to take home. Today we practiced something very powerful—*perspective-taking*. When we slow down and use the S.T.A.R. strategy to understand each other’s feelings, we can solve problems more respectfully and kindly. Keep asking questions and thinking about others’ points of view—it’s how we grow stronger together.”
- Hand out the letters as the children prepare to leave.

Parent Letter

Sending Information Home:

- Provide each child with a letter to take home to their parents explaining the lesson.

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s),

Today, we focused on learning how to better understand different perspectives. Students participated in role-plays and an art activity to explore how others might feel in situations where opinions or preferences differ.

We practiced using the **S.T.A.R. strategy**—**Stop, Think, Act, Reflect**—to ask questions, show empathy, and solve disagreements thoughtfully.



This lesson helps students build important social skills like listening, compassion, and cooperation.

You can support this at home by encouraging your child to talk about how others may feel in different situations and how asking questions can lead to better understanding.

Best Regards,

S.T.A.R. Strategy



**Stop
Think
Act
Reflect**



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One student wants to play a noisy game at recess, but the other wants to find a quiet space to draw or read.

Prompt: How can both students feel heard and respected?

Two friends are building with blocks. One wants to build a tower, the other wants to build a castle.

Prompt: What questions can they ask each other to understand their goals?

One student wants to go outside and play tag. Another is tired and just wants to walk and talk.

Prompt: Can they find a middle ground or take turns?

During a class discussion, one student shares an idea and another laughs, thinking it's silly—but they didn't mean to be mean.

Prompt: How can both students explain how they feel?

Two friends bring the same toy to school and both want to be the leader of the game.

Prompt: How can they take turns or share roles?

You're working on a group project. One student wants to take charge and assign roles, but others want to decide together as a team.

Prompt: How can the group make decisions fairly?

A birthday party is happening in the classroom. One student didn't get an invitation and feels hurt, while another feels nervous about including too many people.

Prompt: How can both feelings be acknowledged?

You're doing a science experiment with a partner. Your partner accidentally spills part of the materials and you're frustrated.

Prompt: How can you both manage your feelings and move forward?

One student finishes their work quickly and wants to chat. The other student is still working and wants quiet.

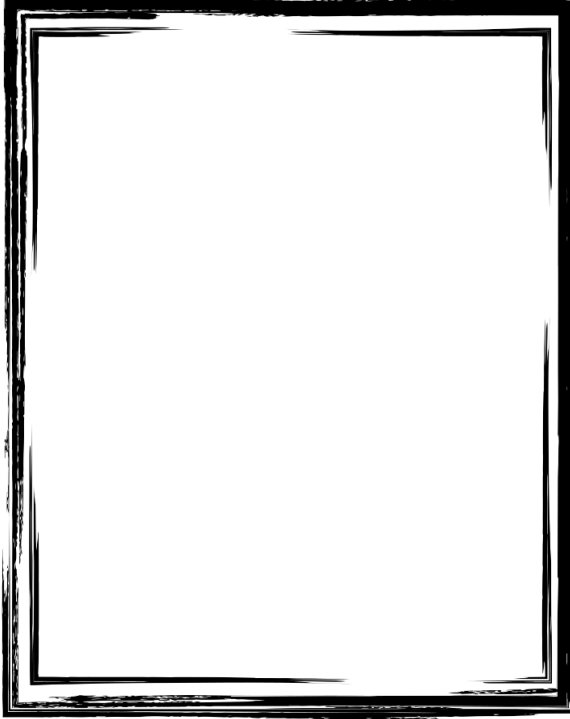
Prompt: How can they understand each other's needs?

You see a friend sitting alone at lunch and want to invite them to your group, but someone in your group says they don't want anyone new joining.

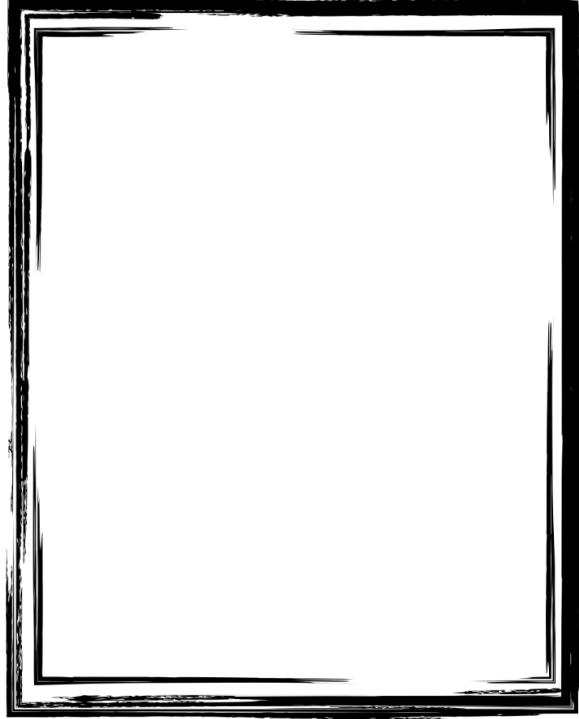
Prompt: How can you talk to your group and support your friend?

Perspective Activity

My Perspective



Other's Perspective



How I could have used the S.T.A.R. Strategy to help understand the other person's perspective.
