

New School

WCBF 4-5

Objective:

Students will consider what a new environment might feel like for someone and how to make that person feel welcome.

Materials needed

• *Can I tell you about Asperger Syndrome?*

IRP PLO(s) addressed:

Grade 4, English Language Arts B8: *respond to selections they read or view*

Grade 4, English Language Arts C1: *write clear, focused personal writing for a range of purposes and audiences that demonstrates connections to personal experiences, ideas and opinions*

Grade 4, Health and Career Education C5: *describe interpersonal skills necessary to build positive relationships*

Grade 5, English Language Arts B8: *respond to selections they read or view*

Grade 5, English Language Arts C1: *write a variety of clear, focussed personal writing for a range of purposes and audiences*

Grade 5, Health and Career Education C6: *analyse behaviours that contribute to a safe and caring environment*

	Teacher guide		Student guide
Opening	Time 5 min	Ask students to reflect on a time they were new to school or joined a new sports team or activity. Ask them how it felt at first. Were they nervous? Were they scared? Were they confused about what to do? Did they worry they wouldn't be able to make friends?	Students share their experiences.
Pre-Activity	15 min	Introduce the book <i>Can I Tell You About Asperger Syndrome?</i> Have students think about how Adam might feel if he were to change schools. Read book to class, or divide the book into sections and have small groups read an assigned section and report their section to the class.	Students listen.
Activity	15 min	Adam is moving to a new school...have students work in groups to write a letter to the new school that includes a few strategies to help the new school make Adam feel accepted and included. In the letter, have students explain why it's important that he feels accepted and is included. <i>Sample student response:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage Adam to join a school club. • Have the other students ask Adam to sit with them at lunch. • It's important to include him so that his classmates can get to know him. 	Students work together in small groups to write a letter.
Closure	5 min	Encourage students to share their written work and encourage students to think about how to help people in new situations.	Students share their letters with the class.

Adaptations:

⇒ Students write or tell the class things they like about their current school.

Reflection: What went well? What needs to be changed for next time? What did I observe about my students? What would better facilitate my teaching of this topic? What needs to be considered for subsequent lessons on this topic?