



Study Guide:

“Rising Above”



"Rising Above"

Synopsis:

Kevin and his sister, Savannah, are playing outside one day, when they notice a new family is moving in next door. The new family also has a brother and sister, named Sterling and Gayle. They notice that Sterling is flying a kite. Just then the neighborhood bully, Sy Dwock enters to tell Kevin about his new drone. Sy mocks the new kid flying a kite before leaving. Kevin meets Sterling for the first time after his kite lands on Kevin's roof. Kevin promises his dad will get the kite down later.

After lunch, Kevin goes to Sy's house to see his drone. They fly it for a while until it, too, lands on Kevin's roof. Again, Sy mocks the new kid's hobby of kite flying, saying that drones are better. Kevin has been friends with Sy for a long time, but is now starting to notice how mean he sometimes can be.

Meanwhile, Savannah is showing her new friend Gayle her bedroom and pet mouse. Gayle reveals her fear of mice, while Savannah admits she is afraid of heights. Gayle confides that her family has moved several times because of her brother, Sterling being a victim of bullying.

Outside, while dad gets the kite and drone off the roof, Sy talks to Sterling for the first time. Sterling is quiet and shy, so Sy is mean to him. After Sterling leaves, Kevin's Dad suggests Kevin invite Sterling to his birthday party at Lucky Crust Pizza. He also tells Kevin he has a surprise for him, then leaves. Sy immediately recommends that Kevin NOT invite the new kid to his party.

Later, Kevin goes next door to talk to Sterling. As they fly his kite, Sterling opens up and tells Kevin about his troubles with bullies and mean kids. He also reveals his love for flying, by singing the song "Rising Above". Kevin then invites him to his birthday party at the pizza place.

At Lucky Crust Pizza, Dad will still not reveal the surprise he has for Kevin. Sterling, who is rarely invited to parties, goes off to play the arcade games. Sy complains about Sterling being invited to Kevin's party. He decides to play a trick on Sterling but Kevin tries to talk him out of it. Meanwhile, Savannah arrives with her pet mouse hidden in her pocket, but when she goes to show Gayle, she discovers that the mouse has gotten loose and is somewhere in the restaurant!

Sy finds Sterling at the Skee-ball machine, and pretends to be nice to him. He falsely tells him that he won a grand prize: A ride in a helicopter. Some of the other kids are in on the mean trick and play along. Later, when the pizza employee tells Sterling he did not win a prize, he is humiliated and wants to go home. When Kevin finds out what happened, he apologizes to Sterling then tells Sy that what he did was wrong. Sy stubbornly refuses to change his ways, and tell Kevin that he must choose between his current friends or his new friend. Before Kevin has a chance to respond, the mouse appears on Sy's head, cause him to scream.

Dad finally reveals the surprise he has for Kevin: A ride in a hot air balloon. He is only allowed to invite one friend, and for Kevin the choice is clear. He invites Sterling, the one person who most loves flying. Kevin finds out that by sticking up for Sterling, he made a difference in the other kids' behaviors and attitudes. And in the end, he was able to rise above it all.

Questions:

Q: What does Sy think is better than a kite?

A: A drone.

Q: Why did Sterling's family move?

A: He was having problems with the other kids.

Q: What is Savannah's fear?

A: Heights.

Q: What kind of pet does Savannah have?

A: a mouse.

Q: What does Sterling dream about?

A: Flying.

Q: What is the name of the place where Kevin has his party?

A: Lucky Crust Pizza.

Q: What is the mean trick Sy plays on Sterling?

A: He tells him he won a prize (a helicopter ride).

Q: What has Sterling never played before?

A: Arcade games.

Q: What is the surprise Dad has for Kevin at the end?

A: A hot air balloon ride.

Suggestion:

If you like, have the children draw their favorite scene from the show. You may mail them to us at: Sadecky's Puppets, 313 5th Ave., Tarentum, PA 15084.

Name: _____

“Rising Above” Student Worksheet

Write one or two words that describe each of the following characters:

1. Kevin
2. Sterling
3. Savannah (Kevin’s sister)
4. Sy Dwock
5. Gayle (Sterling’s sister)

Which character above might say this? (write the number)

_____ I am so afraid of heights.

_____ Drones are so much better than kites.

_____ I am scared of mice.

_____ I dream about flying.

_____ I chose to do the right thing.

Word Search Puzzle

CHARACTER MATTERS

R	V	Y	V	H	O	P	L	K	L	W	O	G	Y	C
E	S	G	R	Z	O	I	X	M	S	C	E	Y	P	O
S	N	B	X	I	A	H	E	O	R	I	P	M	P	O
P	V	O	T	R	U	S	T	W	O	R	T	H	Y	P
E	N	Y	I	K	I	N	D	N	E	S	S	S	G	E
C	T	D	Y	T	S	E	N	O	H	W	X	V	N	R
T	C	I	O	Y	A	Z	P	U	H	R	O	O	I	A
Y	T	I	L	I	B	I	S	N	O	P	S	E	R	T
M	A	L	Y	O	C	T	C	S	V	E	C	M	A	I
D	U	Q	I	D	P	I	Q	E	E	E	A	S	C	O
B	G	Y	W	E	P	C	V	P	R	N	A	D	B	N
S	U	O	E	T	R	U	O	C	N	P	R	L	B	I
A	P	Y	Y	R	J	T	P	E	V	Q	P	I	T	D
O	P	S	K	X	L	V	R	G	U	R	S	A	A	X
G	M	Z	H	X	I	S	I	Y	R	T	B	C	S	F

APPRECIATION
CITIZENSHIP
FAIRNESS
MANNERS
RESPONSIBILITY
BULLY
COOPERATION
HONESTY
POLITE
TRUSTWORTHY
CARING
COURTEOUS
KINDNESS
RESPECT

ABOUT SADECKY'S PUPPETS

Our final season

Sadecky's Puppets was founded by brothers Jay and Michael Sadecky, who had an early interest in the art of puppetry. As children they developed and performed skits for family and relatives. Some homemade puppets were made in the mid 1960's as a scouting project. By the year 1970 the Sadecky's were doing shows for private parties and holiday events. In pursuit of other interests, the puppets were put away until 1981 when Jay decided to revive the idea. He asked Michael to design and build a stage and construct some puppets for 5 seasonal productions. In 1982 Jay & Michael became full-time partners and for the next 5 years produced and rehearsed shows at home, until acquiring an office and workshop in Tarentum, Pennsylvania in 1986. Their sister Kathy and additional puppeteers were hired to perform shows (using 2 stages) simultaneously at different locations. Professional puppet makers and scenic artists began to aid in production design. The sales staff started marketing to nearby states and soon after that Sadecky's Puppets became the touring company that it is today. Our puppeteer troupes travel to 14 different states, performing over 400 shows per year. We are sad to say, however, this will be our final season.

The productions deal with many different topics, including character education, storybook classics and holiday themes. We've created our storylines based on annual client surveys and also written reviews received from educators and audience members after each school performance. In this way, the viewer evaluates our performances, and the teachers have the opportunity to tell us what they would like to see in the future.

Having children of their own, both Jay and Mike recognize the importance of the nurturing and character building of today's children. Written into each script are issues such as respect, peer pressure and honesty. We hope that in this way the students will not only be entertained, but they will also learn valuable life lessons.