

LIO

MAKING FRIENDS



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Andrews McMeel
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KIDS

TEACHER'S GUIDE

Curriculum Connections and Discussion Guide



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Liō: Making Friends

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AMP! Comics for Kids

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GRADE LEVEL: 3–7

Curriculum Connections

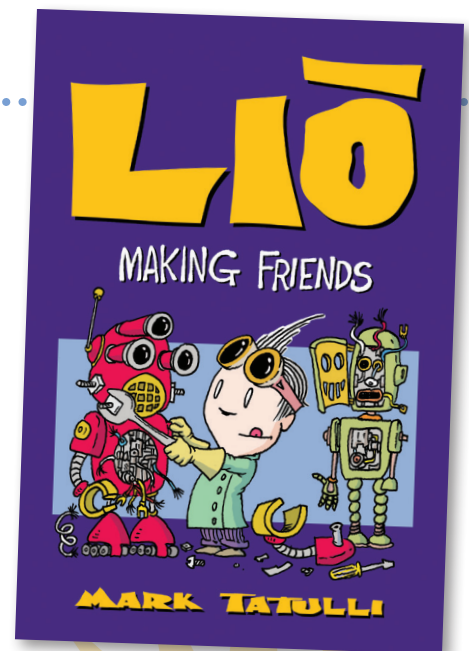
English Language Arts * Art * Drama

Thematic Connections

Imagination * Fantasy * Friendship * Family * Inventions * Animals * Monsters and Aliens

Overview

Young scientist and inventor Liō spends his days cooking up schemes, practical jokes, and surprises with the help of his friends: robots and pet snakes, spiders, crabs, a squid, and other assorted creatures. Students can enjoy the fantasy element and explore exaggerated humor with group and individual creative exercises.



English Language Arts Lesson Plan and Discussion Questions

Objective

Students will read this almost-wordless cartoon book, discuss it, and complete group activities and individual creative writing exercises.

Discussion Questions

1. Because the comic is almost entirely wordless, readers have to infer the storylines from the creator's drawings. Ask students to suggest adjectives to describe Liō, his father, and his various pets. How do they know their adjectives are accurate? For example, how do we know that Liō is clever? Kind?
2. Can students name some of the themes in the book, such as family, inventiveness, imagination? How do recurring themes make the cartoons funnier?
3. Ask students to share which of Liō's gadgets they'd like to own. What would they use it for?

Group Activities

Break the class into small groups for these activities:

1. Have each student in a group choose a cartoon strip and then read it aloud to the others in their own words. Have each group choose a reader to share that cartoon strip with the entire class. Have the reader “tell” the story first, and then show the class the strip.
2. Have each student in a group choose an animal or creature from the story, give the creature a name, and then write a paragraph in its “voice.” The paragraph can be original or it can be a narration of one of the cartoon strips. Have each group choose a reader to share their paragraph with the entire class.

Individual Writing

1. Discuss the concept of literary allusion (making reference to other books and stories) and share examples from the book: page 20 (*The Pied Piper*), page 51 (*Jack and the Beanstalk*), page 60 (*Pinocchio*), page 65 (*Charlotte’s Web*), page 135 (*Hansel and Gretel*), and pages 113, 139, and 180 (*The Wizard of Oz*). Have students choose two familiar stories and write or draw their own funny comic with literary allusion.
2. After discussing the differences between the concepts of “reality” and “fantasy,” give some examples from the book of fantasy. Are Liō’s monster friends real or fantasy? How do you know? Have students create their own cartoon strip based either in fantasy or reality.

