**UNIT: FRIENDSHIP/SOCIAL COMPETENCIES Grade Level 4**

**ACTIVITY: Mr. Peabody’s Apples Lesson 3**

Personal/Social Standards:

A: Students will acquire the knowledge, attitudes and interpersonal skills to help them understand

and respect self and others.

B: Students will make decisions, set goals and take necessary action to achieve goals.

Competencies:

PS:A1 Acquire self-knowledge

PS:A2 Acquire interpersonal skills

PS:B1 Self-knowledge application

Indicators:

PS:A1.8 Understand the need for self-control and how to practice it

PS:B1.2 Understand consequences of decisions and choices

Materials:

* Mr. Peabody’s Apples by Madonna
* travel toothpaste
* plastic spoon
* 8 ½ x 11 sheet of paper with lines drawn
* See NOTES

Vocabulary:

* gossip / rumors – talking about another person behind their back (without their knowledge)

Gathering:

“Today we are going to talk about rumors / gossip and what it can do to a friendship. I need a volunteer to help me out.”

Explain to the volunteer that they are going to squeeze out all of the toothpaste onto the paper, covering as much of the lines on the paper as possible. Say go. Give the student time to squeeze out the entire tube (this should take about a minute). After the toothpaste is all out, show the class and give encouragement – “you did a great job!” Take out the plastic spoon and tell the student they will now complete part two of the task. They will take the spoon and put all of the toothpaste back in the tube so that it looks just as it did when we started. Give the student one minute to work on this. After one minute, stop them and ask how they are doing.

“This is what can happen with our words…they are easy to get out, but much harder to take back. When we gossip or spread rumors, it is tough to take them back.”

Review Agenda/Before the Lesson:

Ask for student definitions for rumors and gossip and clarify if needed.

“Today we are going to read a story that shows us what can happen when we gossip or spread rumors about another person.”

During the Lesson

Read Mr. Peabody’s Apples using read aloud strategies.

After the Lesson

Discussion:

* Did Billy have all of the information about what Mr. Peabody was doing when he took the apple?
* Why did Mr. Peabody use a feather pillow to explain rumors / gossip to Billy?
* What did Billy learn about his words?
* Thinking about the beginning of the story again, what could Billy have done when he first heard about the apples?
* What does the toothpaste demonstration have to do with friendship?

Checking Out What You Learned/Assessment

“Thumbs up if you can tell me what a rumor is?”

“Thumbs up if you can tell me what it means to gossip about someone?”

Closing

“We learned a very important lesson about our words today. Rumors and gossip can be hurtful and harmful to friendships. We always need to remember to stop and think about our words.”

Notes:

For added engagement and variety counselor can copy video clips onto a DVD and use during class time by going to Heartland AEA website / LEARN360 / “Rumors and Gossip” from Harassment Hurts (4:25)