

HOORAY JOSÉ

by

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Summary

José is a little mouse with dreams of playing on the basketball team with the big mice. His determination to play well, added with practice and patience, win him the chance to score big when a player on the team gets injured.

Ideas for Family & Classroom Use

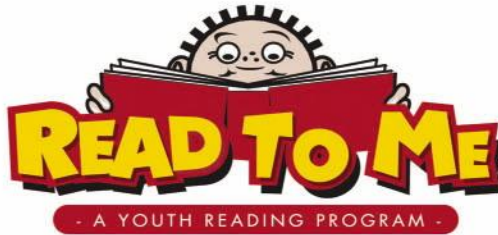
Discussion questions - encourage children to find examples from the story to document their answers.

Have you ever been in a situation like José's, where you aren't picked for something because people don't think you're big enough, old enough, good enough, etc? How did you feel and how did you react?

How did José face the challenge of not being invited to play basketball with the others?

José is finally invited to be on the team. When the team plays though, he just sits on the sideline. Was that fair? How would you feel? How do you think José felt? How did he respond?

How did José win out in the end? What character traits helped him to be successful when he finally got into the game?



Responding to the Text

Arts

Hooray for YOU!

Everyone should be celebrated for just who they are. Provide large pieces of art paper for children to create a self-portrait, perhaps doing something that they just love to do. Directions for a project that help children step-by-step through the process of creating a self-portrait, can be found at the following site:

<http://www.artprojectsforkids.org/2008/09/back-to-school-self-portraits.html>

When the artwork is finished, display it for all to see and celebrate. Children might write their goals and dreams (shared below) and post them next to their self-portrait.

Writing/Personal Growth

I want to be...

Encourage children to write a short statement or paragraph about *how* they want to be when they grow up, not just “what” they want to be. What kind of person do they want to be? What do they want to be known for? What gifts might they share with the world? These personal statements could be posted near the self-portraits children create or put into some kind of goal-setting notebook to reflect back upon. At home, the self-portraits might be framed and displayed in a prominent place for all to see and to celebrate.

What big dreams you have!

Help children set and meet goals using some of the ideas that follow.

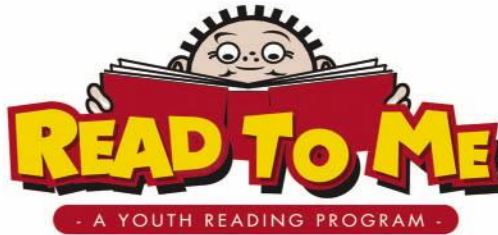
First of all, ask children to reflect on something they want to get better at. Then, invite them to:

1. Write down a specific goal – the more specific, the better.

(José knew he wanted to improve his basketball skills.)

2. Next, make a plan. How will you work towards meeting that goal?

(José knew that he needed to improve his basketball skills if he was going to join the team.)



3. Monitor that plan and set a time-line. How will you keep track of your progress?

Do you need assistance from a parent, teacher or good friend, to help you keep on track, record your progress and to celebrate when you meet your goal? This person could also really help you if you set a goal that is too high or needs to be broken down into smaller steps. (José didn't have this part of his plan, but it really helps.)

4. How will you know you've met your goal?

(José knew that with practice and patience, at the right time, he would be ready to go in and help his team.) Celebrate success, even small successes along the way, as you celebrate YOU!

More ideas on goal-setting with children are shared at the following website:

<http://www.cyh.com/HealthTopics/HealthTopicDetailsKids.aspx?p=335&id=2368&np=287>

Physical Education

Cooperative Games

Basketball is a team sport, but even in team sports, there are times when everyone doesn't get equal time playing on the court or in the field. The games found at the following websites, not only encourage participation by all, but actually depend upon it. Enjoy trying some of these games at your school or in your neighborhood:

<http://www.mrgym.com/CooperativeGames.htm>

<http://www.learning-for-life.org/exploring/resources/99-720/x08.pdf>

Basketball moves

Do you know someone who just loves to play basketball, like José? At this website coaches share drills and moves that will help anyone improve their game:

<http://www.online-basketball-drills.com/>