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My Ole Golly

Miss Golly, known to Harriet as Ole Golly, is Harriet's primary caretaker. She sees to Harriet's needs and teaches Harriet a great deal about life. Who in your life do you think has been your most significant caretaker? Describe that person by responding to the prompts below.

My Ole Golly's name: _____

How long I have known him/her: _____

The most important things he/she has done for me: _____

The most important things he/she has taught me: _____

What he/she has meant to me: _____



Mirror Image



Harriet begins to have greater compassion and understanding when she imagines what it is like to be other people, for example, Sport and Janie. She tries to put herself in their shoes.

Activity

Part One

Privately think of someone you know. Silently, imagine yourself as that person right now. Imagine everything about how that person looks and then imagine that this is how you look. Take each feature and bit of coloring on that person and think of it as belonging to you. Then, think about the sorts of things that person does with his or her day. Imagine what some of his or her thoughts, worries, and pleasures might be. Try to understand what it might be like to be that person. Do you feel a greater understanding or sympathy for him or her?

Part Two

Partner up with someone in the classroom. The two of you will need to stand face to face as though you were the mirror image of the other. One person will be A and the other will be B. First A will make slow and careful movements with his/her face and/or body. B will try to copy them exactly, just as a mirror would. Do not speak. Pay very careful attention to your partner. After two or three minutes, your teacher will call “time,” and A will then copy B’s motions for five minutes. How well do you do this? Are you able to focus completely on the other person? Do your own concerns and feelings get in the way? Discuss as a class what this experience is like for each of you. How thoroughly can you “be” someone else?

Extension: Just for fun, see if anyone in the class is able to do any celebrity impersonations.

