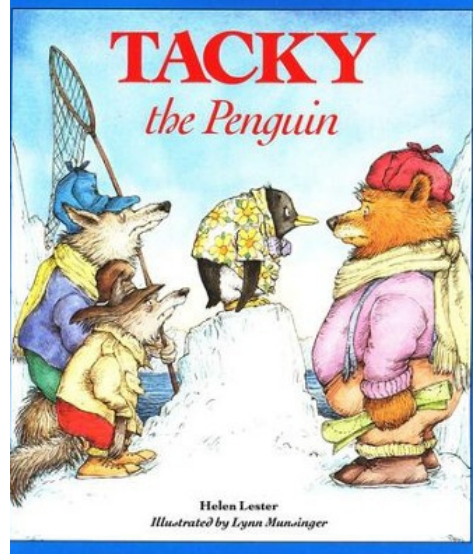




TACKY THE PENGUIN

HELEN LESTER

All the penguins are just the same. They like the same things, they do the same things, they sing the same songs. All the penguins, that is, except for Tacky. Tacky is a weird bird. He doesn't fit in. Is it okay to be different or should Tacky try to be just the same, like the others?



Questions:

1. How would it feel to be different when everyone else is exactly the same? How would it feel to be named "Tacky" when everyone else is named things like "Lovely" and "Perfect"?
2. How would you feel if you couldn't walk just the same as everyone else? Or couldn't swim just like everyone else? Or couldn't sit still just like everyone else? Have you ever tried to be like everyone else and not been able to stop being different?
3. Does Tacky try to change so that the others will like him? Why not? Is he hurting anyone? Should Tacky have to change just because he's a little weird?
4. When the hunters are coming, how do the penguins feel? How can you tell? Look at their faces and their body language in the pictures.
5. How do you think the penguins feel as the hunters get closer? How do you think hearing the song makes them feel? Can you think of a situation where that might happen in your life? Maybe if someone who is being bullied hears their bully's voice close by? Or hears people laughing?
6. How do you think Tacky felt standing up to the hunters on his own? Is it easier to be strong and stand up by yourself, or easier if you have others backing you up?
7. Do you think Tacky was scared when he was tricking the hunters? Is he was so scared, why did he do it? Why didn't he run away like the others? Was he being brave? Is it possible to be brave if you aren't afraid at all?
8. How do you think Tacky felt in the end when he saved his friends and they all loved him? How do you think the other birds felt when they realized that Tacky saved them?
9. If someone is different, should we try to change them to make them more like us? Or should we accept and appreciate their differences? Does being kind to those who are different help others who are maybe hiding how different they are to feel safe to be themselves?