

**OSKAR AND THE CURIOUSLY COLORFUL CLASH!**  
**APPRECIATING YOURSELF**

Grade Levels: 3-5, with adaptation K-2

“Well that Oskar kid didn’t even think you were a boy at first — he thought you were a dinosaur. And I don’t think you guys are best friends.”

—Doubting Donkey

As Billy tries to adapt to life in Orange Hat, Texas, he faces many challenges because he is seen as different. Doubting Donkey comes to Billy in a dream. She represents his inner struggle. Should he remain true to himself or change to fit in?

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**OBJECTIVES**

- Students will build healthy self images by exploring their self doubts and developing ways to appreciate themselves through *Oskar*.
- Students will create a sense of community by practicing compassion and empathy for each other.

**MATERIALS**

- Black or white board; chalk or dry erase markers
- List of Directed Questions (attached)
- Doubting Donkey handout (attached)

**PROCEDURE**

1. Begin by leading students in answering the attached Directed Questions as a class.
2. Ask students to provide examples of how Billy and Oskar valued themselves and liked or disliked each other during the play.
3. Discuss how Oskar and Billy’s acted toward each other helped or hurt them through the course of the play. Emphasize how these attitudes changed for both characters.
4. Talk about Doubting Donkey, which is actually a symbol of Billy’s fears about his strengths.
5. Shift the focus of the conversation to students’ own experiences with self-doubt.
6. Show the accompanying drawing of Doubting Donkey to your students.
7. Have students decorate their own Doubting Donkeys and write inside their Donkeys one or two self-doubts that they think about sometimes.
8. Have students take their Donkeys home. Ask a parent or adult to look at the Donkeys and discuss how they handled that particular self doubt when they were a child. You can have the parent write their response on the handout if you want.

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**DIRECTED QUESTIONS**

1. At the beginning of the play, did it seem like Oskar appreciated the qualities that made him special and unique?
2. How did he show appreciation for himself?
3. When Billy came to town, did it seem like Oskar appreciated the qualities that made Billy special and unique?
4. How did Billy respond to this? Do you think he could have acted differently? Which way do you think is better?
5. Why did Oskar not appreciate Billy's unique qualities? When did he start to appreciate them?
6. Have you ever felt like Oskar? What made you feel that way? What did you say or do?
7. Why did Billy start to lose appreciation for his own unique qualities? When did he start to appreciate them again?
8. When Doubting Donkey showed up in Billy's dreams, did Doubting Donkey give him good or bad advice?
9. How did Billy respond to Doubting Donkey the first time? What about the second time? Why do you think he responded differently?
10. Have you ever felt like Billy? What made you feel that way? What did you say or do?

**CREATE YOUR OWN DOUBTING DONKEY!**

