BEYOND THE BOOK

Scarecited on the First Day of School by Alliah L. Agostini

Book Summary

Scarecited on the First Day of School captures the rollercoaster of feelings that come with starting school. Follow along as Afua embraces all of her emotions and invents fun "mash-up" words to describe them—like *scarecited*, a mix of scared and excited.

Once she learns how to speak up for herself and makes a new friend, her nervousness starts to fade away. This book validates children's emotions and celebrates new beginnings.

Before Reading the Story

- Discuss what you see on the cover of the book and ask your little one to predict what the story may be about.
- Ask your child what they think *scarecited* means. Talk about how we can all have mixed emotions.
- Discuss your child's first day of school and how they felt. If they haven't started school yet, ask what emotions they feel about school.

Recommended Age

4-8 years

Target Vocabulary

- **Scarecited:** a mix of feeling scared and excited at the same time
- **Pose**: to stand or sit in a certain way, often for a picture or to show off something
- **Curious**: wanting to know or learn more about something
- **Icky**: yucky, sticky, or gross in a way you don't like
- **Growled**: a deep, rumbling sound your stomach makes when hungry
- **Confident**: feeling sure about yourself and what you can do
- **Brave:** doing something even if you feel scared
- **Nervous**: feeling a little worried or unsure about something
- **Relieved**: feeling happy and calm after you were worried about something

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During the Story

- Read the book aloud with the pictures facing your child.
- Make predictions about the story based on the pictures.
- Provide definitions and connections for any of the target vocabulary words that may be unfamiliar.
- Have your child repeat the words that they do not know.
- Relate the details in the story to events and experiences in your everyday life.
- Ask questions throughout the story to help your child understand what's being read.

After Reading the Story

- Have your little one re-read the book in their own words using the illustrations.
- Use facial expressions and gestures to act out all of the emotions Afua shared on her first day of school.
- Clap out all of the syllables in the words Afua created. For example, *shu-ri-ous* = 3 claps.
- Come up with your own feeling mash-up like *scarecited* or *stronfident*. Draw a picture of your mixed emotions or act them out.
- Pretend it is the first day of school. Practice introducing yourself, asking your new teacher questions, or asking a classmate to play.

Example Questions to Ask

- Can you think of a time you felt *scarecited*? Tell me all about it.
- Afua's teacher did not say her name correctly during attendance. What would you do if someone didn't say your name the right way? Would you correct them?
- The students made slime and it felt *slicky*. Can you think of anything else that feels *slicky*?
- Why did Afua start to feel better as the school day went on?
- Have you ever felt two emotions at the same time? What were they?

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