Don’t Judge A Book By Its Cover

- The Endless Caverns
- Lesson Plan 4
Introduction:
As the characters are returning from their adventure in the Endless Caverns, Figley expresses how people make fun of him for being short and slow. Chadwick responds by telling him that he is like the Endless Caverns because, “from the outside, they appeared small and fragile, but inside, the caverns were huge with endless possibilities.” This lesson is designed to help kids understand the importance of not making judgments based on appearance.

Social/Emotional Concept:
Self Confidence

Teaching the Standard:
1. Be sure you have read Figley and the Endless Caverns.
2. Preparation:
   - Select 2 books (one that’s a favorite of the class or one you know they would love and one that won’t be interesting for them). Cover each with a white piece of paper.
   - Cut out the picture of Figley and tape it to chart paper. Label it Advice for Figley.
3. Begin the lesson by showing students two books that you covered with the two sample book covers and ask them which one they want you to read.
4. When they have made their choice, remove each cover and reveal the actual books and ask for their reactions. Ask if any want to change their mind.
5. Introduce students to the phrase “first impressions” and ask if anyone knows what it means. If nobody gives an accurate definition, tell the class what it means.
6. Tell students that oftentimes our first impression of something or someone is wrong. Refer to Figley from the Endless Caverns and ask students why they think other Mutasians would make fun of him or think he couldn’t do great things.
7. Ask them if they think the other Mutasians will treat him differently once they hear about how he saved them all in the Endless Caverns.

Practice the Process:
1. Ask students to return to their seats and think of a time when they had a negative first impression about something. If they need help, share an example from your life.
2. Pass out the First Impressions Sheet and ask students to fill it out.
3. When students are finished they can share their stories with their neighbors while they’re waiting for everyone to finish.
4. Call the class together and have a few volunteers share their stories.
5. Ask students to imagine if they only went with their first impression and had a negative view on something they really liked.

Assessment:
1. Tell students that Figley and many of his Mutasian friends are just beginning to learn about first impressions.
2. Ask students give Figley advice about first impressions.

Ancillary Items:
2. Page 4: Black Line master of Figley for the chart paper.

Supply List:
1. Chart paper
2. 2 books
First Impressions

Name: _______________ Date: ______

1. Think of a time when you had a negative first impression about something. What was it?

2. What made you have a negative impression of it?

3. What made you change your mind about it?