

Thinking and Discussing

1. Talk about how Harry grows throughout the story. Is he the same at the beginning and end? What is he good at doing? Would students be friends with Harry at the beginning of the book? Why or why not? Would they be friends with him at the end of the book?
2. Prompt students to consider Harry's unnecessary roughness. Why do they think Harry behaved the way he did? What did Babette mean when she said Harry had "ants in his pants"? Have they ever felt like that?
3. Ask students how the Kindergators' classroom is similar to and different from their own. Would they like to be in the Kindergators' classroom? Why or why not? What do they think Harry would like and not like about their classroom if he came to visit?
4. Talk about how people solve problems. What was the problem in the Kindergators' classroom, and how was it solved? How did Miss Harmony help the students in her class? Brainstorm other solutions that could have helped Harry besides Babette's idea. Ask students how they solve their own problems, and who/what helps them.
5. Everyone is working on something, just as Harry is working on respecting personal space. What are your students working on? What do they want to learn or improve? Consider telling the class about something you are working on and why/how you're working on it.
6. Discuss the difference between "on purpose" and "by accident." What makes something an accident? What does "on purpose" mean? How do the Kindergators know it was not an accident when Harry poked Miracle in the ribs and her snowflake was ruined? If someone does something that hurts someone else, does it matter if it was done by accident or on purpose?
7. Talk about why and how people say "I'm sorry." Why does Babette think Harry does not mean he's sorry the first time he says it? Why does Miracle think Harry means it the second time? In addition to apologizing meaningfully, what else can someone do or say to make a mistake better?

