

Episode	Segment
Mrs. Katz and Tush	Entire video
Nosey Mrs. Rat	Chimpanzees
Best Friends	Entire video
A Chair For My Mother	Entire Video
The Secret Shortcut	Feature book

## Setting the stage:

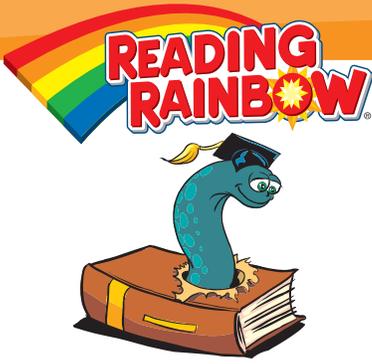
- Create a book corner with a variety of books about friendship. Ask your media specialist for assistance in gathering the collection.
- Display pictures of different types of friendships on a bulletin board to encourage discussions. Invite class members to bring pictures which show the students having fun with their friends. Display these pictures on the bulletin board as well.
- At a writing center have story starters available such as:
  - My friends are special because \_\_\_\_\_.
  - I met my best friend at \_\_\_\_\_.
  - My favorite thing to do with my friends is \_\_\_\_\_.
  - I am a good friend because \_\_\_\_\_.

## Topics for Discussion:

- Discuss the concept of “friendship” with students. What qualities are found in a friendship? What kinds of friends do we have (e.g., school friends, neighborhood friends, family friends, animal friends, book friends, etc.)?
- How are friendships with older people different from friendships with children your own age?
- Invite students to share stories about older friends. Who are they? How did they become friends? What do they enjoy doing together?
- After viewing Best Friends, invite students to share an example of a time when they became upset with a good friend and tell how they resolved it.
- After viewing Nosey Mrs. Rat, discuss what it means to be a good neighbor. Ask what they can do to be a good neighbor.

## Activities to get started:

- Invite students to brainstorm a list of ideas for “How to be a good friend” and record the list to post in the classroom. Periodically discuss the list and add new ideas that are suggested.
- Encourage each child to write and illustrate their own friendship book with each page beginning, “I am a good friend because...”
- Read several books about friendship to the class. Discuss how the friendships were the same and how they were different. Talk about the good qualities each friend had.
- Have students draw an outline of their hand and cut it out. Encourage each student to write five ideas on why they are a good friend—one on each finger and thumb. Put the hands in a box. The teacher pulls them out one at a time and reads them to the class. The class then guesses who wrote it.



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- Play a circle game in which students say one thing that makes the person beside them special. Continue to go around the circle until everyone has had a turn. Play "Fruit Basket Upset" to have students switch places and begin the game again.
- Invite the class to make a class book. On a sheet of paper, have students write and complete the sentence, "I like to \_\_\_\_\_ with my special friend." Encourage students to illustrate the activity described. Assemble the pages into a class book for sharing.
- Adopt a local nursing home or retirement home and arrange periodic visits. Before each visit, brainstorm activities the class can share with their new friends. Have students draw pictures, make cards, or make an art project they can take to give to their new friends. Allow time back in the classroom after each visit for students to share what they learned about their new friends.
- Encourage students to interview a special older friend. Invite students to brainstorm questions to ask. Using the data they collected from their interviews, have students write biographies of their friends. Before beginning this activity, discuss biography as a type of literature and the kinds of information they can expect to find in a biography. An alternative activity would be to have students write their older friend a letter telling them why their friendship is so important.
- Have students role play friendship situations that involve making and being a friend. Possible scenarios might include: meeting a new person who has moved into the neighborhood; being the new kid in class; playing with a friend when each wants to play something different; promising to play with one friend when another friend makes a better "offer"; or being a friend of someone another friend says she/he doesn't like. Discuss the varying possibilities of these situations.
- Extend invitations to older family members or friends of class members to visit the classroom. Find out any special talents and interests these people might have that they would be willing to share with the students. For example, a visiting friend might teach a craft, share a hobby or collection, play a musical instrument, tell about his/her job, tell stories, cook with the students, and many other activities.