

Introduction

1. Show students the cover of The Very Busy Spider by Eric Carle and read the title. Ask, "What do you think the spider is so busy doing? Why would he be so busy doing that? Tell me about a time when you were busy doing something."

Tell the class, "Today we are going to read The Very Busy Spider by our author of the week Eric Carle. We will make connections with the spider. What does it mean to make a connection to a character in a story?"

Lesson

1. The teacher will read The Very Busy Spider and will ask the following questions: What was the spider so busy doing? Why? Where did he build his web? What does he eat? Was there any danger while he was building his web? Was there anything that could keep him from building his web? What would happen if he didn't build his web?"

2. Lead students to discuss how the spider used Covey Habits.

How did the spider Put First Things First? How did the spider Begin With the End in Mind? What was the spider's goal?

3. Lead students to make a connection with the spider.

What's a goal that all of us have for the end of this year? How have you Put First Things First to reach that goal? What's a way that you Begin With the End in Mind?

4. Show the bone diagram to the students and ask if there's anything else you need to add. Lead the children in a forcefield analysis of what drives them to meet their goals to be ready for the grade they are about to go in to and what restrains them from meeting their goals.

Instruct students that you are going to let them play the game "Pass the Lotus" with friends at their tables. The first student will write something that he/she has learned to do or has improved on in order to prepare for the next grade. The students will continue to pass the lotus around the table until everyone has recorded something.

Groups will gather on the carpet to share their lotuses with the rest of the class. The teacher will again draw their attention to how they Put First Things First and Begin With the End in Mind to set and reach their goal. Children will be able to make a connection with the spider and apply it to setting and reaching goals.