

5. How Are We All the Same?

This activity introduces students to “community” and how community members have needs and consider and help each other.



Materials Needed:

Book **“Swimmy”** by Leo Lionni

BLM 1-4

Discuss, “What is a community?”

Ask if anyone knows what a “community” of fish is called. (school)

Let the students know that they will be listening to a story about a school of fish. Tell them that afterwards, they will be acting it out, so they must pay attention to the characters’ actions and attitudes.

Read **“Swimmy”** by Leo Lionni.

Discuss *Swimmy*.

- What are his wants, needs and problems?
- How did he go about solving his problems?
- Did members of the school of fish have a responsibility to consider each other?
- Do things work out better for the community (school) if they do?

Reflect on how the school of fish is a community that works together for the common good.

Choose a student for the part of *Swimmy* and the rest of the class will be the “school” of fish. Read the story aloud as the students act out the parts from the prompts in the story.

Using **BLM 1-4**, invite students to work in pairs to describe the similarities of their needs to the needs of *Swimmy* and his friends.

BLM 1-4 Swimmy

Swimmy's Needs	Our Needs
Swimmy's Talents	My Talents
1. _____	1. _____
2. _____	2. _____
3. _____	3. _____