Episode: “Talent Show”

Albie’s magic tricks aren’t working so well for the talent show and she has trouble expressing her frustration through words. Albie visits poet Yolanda Wisher who helps her find ways to talk about her feelings and use her words, and even inspires Albie to perform her own poem in the talent show.

Activity

Materials:
• Five objects that match your five senses
• Optional: Paper and something to write with

Steps:
1. Watch the episode “Talent Show,” and notice how Albie feels when her magic tricks don’t go according to plan. Albie makes lots of noises trying to express her feelings. What words do you think describe how Albie is feeling in that moment?
2. Albie visits a poet who shows her a new way of using her words. Watch Yolanda come up with a poem about different objects. Each object reminds her of a different feeling.
3. Read Yolanda’s poem out loud together:

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Sometimes I feel like
A happy green ribbon
An excited silver disco ball
A shy yellow banana
A fancy rainbow whisk
A dreamy blue paint chip
Sometimes I feel like me
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4. Point out the different feeling words and describing words in her poem: happy, excited, shy, fancy and dreamy. Now point out all the different objects in her poem: a ribbon, disco ball, banana, whisk and a paint chip.
5. Yolanda imagines that she feels like each of these objects. Read the poem
Tips

• The five senses might be new for some children, so use this activity as a chance to explore them. Think creatively with your child about matching objects to their senses. Spices or flowers are great objects to use for a sense of smell. You can set up a child’s favorite snack for something that represents taste.
• Grown-ups can make their own poems too! Model the activity to help pique your child’s interest.

again and try to imagine feeling like each of the things she names. Maybe even act them out by waving your arms like a happy ribbon or spinning excitedly like a disco ball.

6. Now find five of your own objects to make a poem about. Choose objects that match each of your five senses: something your eyes like to look at, something your ears can hear, something your nose can smell, a food you can taste and something with an interesting texture to touch.

7. Set your five objects on a table in front of you and make a simple poem about them. Start by filling in the blanks and ending with a feeling:

8. Now say your poem again and try to add some more describing words about each object like Yolanda did.

9. Grown-ups can write down the poem, or you can continue to add to it verbally.

I see ________.
I hear ________.
I smell ________.
I touch ________.
I taste ________.
I feel ________.
In this activity, your child:

- Analyzed a poem
- Learned about their five senses
- Recited a poem they wrote themselves

Talk to your child! Conversation Starters:

- Albie makes sounds instead of saying her feelings when she can’t quite put them into words. Come up with your own silly sounds to match these feelings: happy, sad, sleepy, angry and frustrated.
- Which of your senses (seeing, hearing, smelling, tasting, feeling) do you like best? Why?
- Tell me more about why you chose these objects for your poem. What about them is interesting to you?

Keep Going!

5 Sense Scavenger Hunt
Pick one of your senses to engage in lots of different ways. Can you find things to touch that are soft, bumpy, cold or rough? Can you listen for sounds that are quiet, loud, screechy or musical? What about things that taste sour, sweet or spicy?

Family Talent Show
Put on your own family talent show, like Albie and her friends do in the elevator. Maybe someone can sing or play a song, while another person does a dance. You can even perform your poem in the show!

Vocabulary

Poetry: The art of using words to express how we feel
5 Senses: The different ways our bodies experience the world
Feelings: The way our bodies and minds react to different situations and experiences
More At-Home Activities
Visit PBS LearningMedia for more activities like this inspired by Albie’s Elevator.

Children’s Books with Related Themes
Check out these children’s books online or at your local library to continue exploring the concepts in this episode.

**The Word Collector** by Peter H. Reynolds
Jerome collects all kinds of amazing words from things he hears, reads and sees. One day he releases all of his words into the breeze for people to collect and be inspired by.

**Lemonade and Other Poems Squeezed from a Single Word** by Bob Raczka
This book of poetry uses words like lemonade, moonlight, playground and earthworms to form a poem all from one amazing word.

**I Hear a Pickle (and Smell, See, Touch, and Taste it Too!)** by Rachel Isadora
A book that introduces all of the five senses and the many ways we can experience each of them.