THE EMPEROR’S NEW CLOTHES

Ask:
• How did you feel about the Emperor in the beginning of the story? At the end of the story?
• Why do you think the Emperor felt his clothing was so important?
• Do you decide whether you like someone or not based on what he wears? Why? Why not?
• What kinds of things do you think are important about people?
• How do you think the Emperor felt about himself at the beginning of the story? At the end of the story?

As you discuss these questions with children, be sure to emphasize that qualities like kindness, fairness, considerate behaviors, etc., help us decide how we feel about people rather than clothing and other possessions they may own.

Have children think about the little boy who shouted that the Emperor had no clothes on. Ask:
• How did the little boy’s honesty help the others?
• How did his honesty help the Emperor?
• How do you think the people and the Emperor felt before the little boy said anything?
• How do you think they felt afterward?
• Do you think clothing mattered as much to the Emperor at the end of the story? Why? Why not?

Talk with children about the different kinds of clothing the Emperor had. Then let children use some fun pretending to be tailors and designing their own clothing for the Emperor. Supply sheets of cardboard, pencils, markers, glue, scissors, and fabric scraps that children can use. Have children draw the outlines of clothing on the cardboard. Then have them glue the fabric scraps of their choice onto the cardboard, filling the outlines. Later, display the work of your “classroom tailors” on a wall or bulletin board. You might also want to have the children write or dictate simple stories about why their designs are the Emperor’s preference!

CALL 1-800-243-5020 TO ORDER THESE AND OTHER WESTON WOODS VIDEOS!

This guide may be photocopied for free distribution without restriction.