



THE REAL SKINNY

Don't prejudice.

The Secret Millionaires Club recognizes that things aren't always what they seem. Elena befriends a shy girl at school and discovers that she is really cool. After doing some research, the Secret Millionaires Club finds out that the Myron Mattress Factory isn't a smart move for the school's investment club. They learn that it's a good idea to get to know people and businesses before judging them.

Don't make judgments before all the facts are known.

Ask kids: How did Elena's impression of Ginny change after she got to know her? And why did the Secret Millionaires Club alter its opinion of the Myron Mattress Factory after doing research? Why is it important to get to know people before you judge them?

Provide an example when you made a judgment too soon.

Share a story with your child from your own life when you made a mistake and judged someone or something before having all the information. Use the example to help your child develop an attitude of tolerance toward others. Discuss why prejudging others can be harmful, how people can be misjudged by their appearance, and why it's important to get to know someone first.

Activities:

1. Cut two shapes of a person out of paper—one for you and the other for your child. Each of you should spend five minutes writing down characteristics that best describe you inside the cutout. Those details can include everything from physical descriptions to number of siblings to hobbies and interests. Then compare your lists. What do you have in common? What is different? Talk about how each of us is unique in our own way and why we should get to know people before jumping to conclusions about them.
2. Elena learned how much she liked Ginny by having lunch with her. Encourage your child not to prejudice by getting to know someone new or something that is unfamiliar. For instance, your child can reach out to a new friend at school or in your neighborhood. Or you might explore a new place in your community together. Visit a museum, attend a music or cultural festival, or try a new restaurant.

Tip: Your kids are always learning from you. You can teach them not to prejudge others. Serve as a role model when it comes to accepting others who are different. Look for opportunities to teach your kids to value diversity, avoid stereotypes, and demonstrate respect toward others.

