



THE REAL SKINNY

Don't prejudge.

The Secret Millionaires Club recognizes that things aren't always as 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 of making a judgment too soon.

Share a story from your own life of an instance when you made a mistake and judged someone or something before having all the information. Use the example to help kids 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. Have each kid cut a piece of paper into the shape of a person, and cut out a paper-person for yourself. Inside the cutout, write down characteristics that best describe you (take about 3-5 minutes). Details can include everything from physical descriptions to number of siblings to hobbies and interests. Then compare lists. What do people 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 instead of jumping to conclusions about them.
2. Elena learned how much she liked Ginny by having lunch with her. Encourage kids in the club to get to know someone new or something that is unfamiliar. For instance, kids can reach out to a new friend at school or in their neighborhood. Or plan a field trip for the club to a place the kids have never been. Visit a museum, attend a music or cultural festival, or try a new restaurant.

Tip: 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 kids to value diversity, avoid stereotypes, and demonstrate respect toward others.

