



WALLY AND FREYA CIRCLE GUIDE

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OBJECTIVE

The circle questions below provide a way for readers to engage more deeply with *Wally and Freya*, a children's picture book about restorative justice. They are intended for use in classrooms or with groups of children in other contexts.

MATERIALS

Wally and Freya by Lindsey Pointer, illustrated by Stella Mongodi.



A relevant and meaningful talking piece.

INSTRUCTIONS

Gather the group of children in a circle seated comfortably on the ground or in chairs.

You may want to open this activity with a mindfulness or grounding activity such as taking a deep breath together, bringing awareness to the body, or listening to a calming sound to help the group of children arrive in the space together.

Remind the group of your circle agreements such as to listen and speak with respect.

When everyone is settled, read the book *Wally and Freya*. Move slowly through the book, taking time to discuss the story and the illustrations, and following the children's curiosity and interest.

Introduce your talking piece, which will be passed around the circle, giving each child a chance to speak and be heard. Select a talking piece that has significance to you or the group and is relevant to the themes of the story and the circle dialogue.

Pose a circle question to the group and pass the talking piece so that each child has a chance to speak. You may choose to do one or multiple circle rounds.

Example Circle Questions:

- Share a time that you felt like one of the characters from the story.
- What do you think empathy is? Share an example.
- Share a time that you practiced empathy.
- What do you think Wally would have done if Freya had come to him in anger?
- What did Freya do that made her a good friend?
- Have you ever been so sad that you became mad? Do you ever feel like Wally? Or Freya?
- Why do you think Wally let down his wall and shared what he was feeling with Freya?
- What do you wish others understood about you?

Once you have finished your circle round(s), you may wish to do a quick check-out round to give each person a final opportunity to speak. Then close the circle with intention by repeating back key themes, relating the discussion back to the story, or facilitating another mindfulness moment to help the group transition out of circle time.

LESSON

The story of *Wally and Freya* provides a great way to talk with children about restorative justice. Deepen the learning, engagement, and dialogue through circle practice!

