



Spencer's Brave Truth

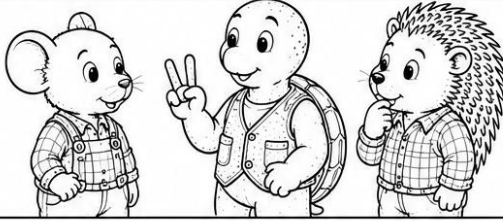


Family and Classroom Reading Guide.



Story topic:

Beginning a friendship when new moments feel big and two children move at different natural speeds.



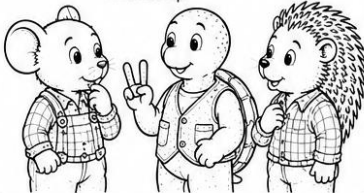
Caregiver encouragement:

Welcome one small honest sentence and let the child choose whether to practice, watch, point, or pause.



Think together

- What made the first meeting feel big to Spencer?
- What helped him tell the truth?
- How did Austin help without becoming the main helper?
- What did Lex change? What did Spencer try?
- What could "go a bit slow" look like in an imaginary friendship?



Vocabulary

- nervous
- brave
- truth
- tangle
- gently
- steady
- pace
- rhythm
- belonging



Tell the story

Retell the story through:

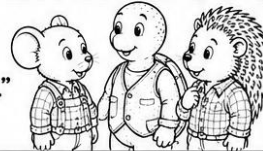
- the new moment
- the gentle problem
- the three-step plan
- the help
- the friendship agreement



Say the phrase

"Small steps can grow a friend."

Use briefly for recall, not as a compliance slogan.



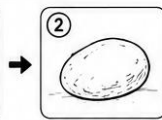
Optional extension

Place three safe, familiar objects in a line and practice:

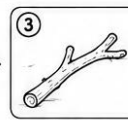
- 1 Notice
- 2 One comfortable breath
- 3 One kind sentence



Notice



One comfortable breath



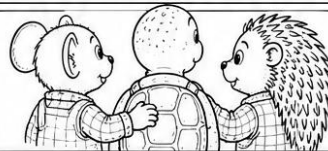
One kind sentence

Pebbles are not required; participation may be spoken, pointed, selected, or modeled by an adult.



Privacy and boundary

Children may answer about characters or pretend situations. Do not require food sharing, possession sharing, apologies, gratitude, or public disclosure.



Library uses



Friendship



Fairness



Kindness



Animal stories



Read-aloud displays

Before reading

Invite children to notice the characters and wonder how they might become friends.