

# ELIZABETI'S DOLL

## ELIZABETI'S DOLL

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(Lee & Low )

Themes: African Culture/Families/Feelings/New Babies

Grade Level: Pre-K – 2

Running Time: 8 minutes

## SUMMARY

When her new baby brother arrives, Elizabeti, a young Tanzanian girl, longs for a baby of her own to hold and bathe and kiss and burp. One day she finds the perfect baby—a rock she names Eva—just the right size for holding and bathing and kissing and burping.

## OBJECTIVES

- Children will explore family relationships
- Children will investigate feelings of love and caring
- Children will learn about life in Tanzania

## BEFORE VIEWING ACTIVITIES

Share the book *Elizabeti's Doll* with children. Then ask:

- Why did Elizabeti want a baby of her own?
- What did she choose as a substitute for a doll? Why was her choice a good one?
- What did she do to care for her doll?
- How did Elizabeti feel when she thought her doll was gone forever?
- How did the little girl feel at the end of the story?

Talk with children about siblings they may have. Ask: How do your parents care for your brother or sister? What do you do to help? How can you show your brother/sister that you care for him/her? How does your brother/sister show how much he/she cares for you? What do you like most about being part of a family? What is the hardest part about being a member of a family?

Encourage children to describe the toys, home-made or store bought, that they are most fond of. Discuss why children like these toys and the kinds of things they do with their toys, places they play with them, how they share them, how they take care of them. In the case of homemade toys, have children share with the class how the toys were made and how the fact that they are homemade might add to their significance.

Point out Tanzania to children on a world map. Then share other picture books and resource materials that will help children get a sense of the country and its people. Ask: How do you think life in Tanzania is similar to the way we live in the United States? How do you think it might be different? What things would you enjoy doing if you were a child in Tanzania? What things would you like to show children from Tanzania if they were to visit you here?

## AFTER VIEWING ACTIVITIES

Supply a collection of rocks, poster paints, and fabric scraps that children can use to create their own dolls. Have children use the paint to paint

faces on the rocks, and the fabric scraps to dress their dolls or wrap them in blankets. Have children take turns introducing their dolls to the class and describing how they would care for the dolls once they took them home.

Remind children of the simple ways Elizabeti's family lived, including the ways they cooked their meals, transported their water, and dried their clothes. Have children discuss how we go about doing these chores in the United States. Ask: What would you enjoy about doing chores as Elizabeti's family did them? What would be difficult about doing chores this way? How do machines help us do chores? Do machines make chores more or less enjoyable? Why?

Have them divide a large piece of construction paper in half, drawing a picture of life in Tanzania on one side of the paper, and life at home on the other. As children share their drawings with one another, encourage them to discuss what is similar, and what is different about life in both countries.

Other videos and films about families and feelings available from Weston Woods include:

**NOISY NORA** by Rosemary Wells

**OWEN** by Kevin Henkes

**THE PAPERBOY** by Dav Pilkey

**PETE'S A PIZZA** by William Steig

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