





A laugh-out-loud funny story about not worrying what others think—and a comical lesson about how keeping up your image is not nearly as fun as being your own quirky self.

Use *Big Mean Mike* in your classroom to talk about first impressions, making snap judgments, and standing up for your friends.

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-  Explain and discuss what it means to make a snap judgment—judging someone or something by the way they or it looks—and how by doing so you could miss out on people and things you may actually like.
-  Begin a phonemic awareness lesson by emphasizing the initial consonant sounds in *Mean Mike*. Brainstorm other *M* words that could go with Mike’s name (such as *Mighty Mike* or *Muscles Mike*). Ask students to do the same with their own names—*Silly Sadie*, for example.
-  Ask students why they think Big Mean Mike doesn’t want to be seen with the bunnies. How do the bunnies surprise Mike? How does this change Mike’s feelings?
-  Big Mean Mike stood up for himself and his friends when the other dogs made fun of him. Talk about friendship and standing up for a friend.

BIG 
MEAN
MIKE



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