

ACTIVITY 6C: STUDENT HANDOUT



“ Warm Fuzzies ”

Once upon a time, a long time ago, there lived two very happy people, Tim and Maggie, who had two children, John and Lucy. To understand how happy they were, you have to understand how things were in those days. You see, back then, when a person was born, he was given a small, soft, fuzzy bag to wear around his waist, and whenever he wished, he could reach into this bag and pull out a thing called a warm fuzzy and give it to someone. Warm Fuzzies were very important in people’s lives because, whenever someone was given one, he felt happy and warm and fuzzy all over. One could reach into his bag, pull out a fuzzy, and when the fuzzy saw the light of day, it would smile and grow into a large, shaggy fuzzy which would lean on a person’s shoulder and melt right into a person’s skin and make them feel good all over. Since Fuzzies were given freely, there were always plenty to go around, and everyone was happy and felt warm and fuzzy most of the time.

All this happiness was making one person very angry, however, and that person was Wanda the Witch. No one was going to her to buy her potions and salves, and Wanda didn’t like that at all. So Wanda devised a clever plan and one day waited for Tim on the golf course. When he went into the trees to look for a lost ball, she whispered in his ear. “Tim, have you noticed how many warm Fuzzies Maggie is giving away to the children and to her friends? If she keeps this up, she’ll run out and won’t have any left for you.” Tim was astonished. He turned to the witch and said, “Do you mean to tell me that there is a possibility that we might run out of warm Fuzzies one day?” And Wanda the Witch answered, “Right! And once you run out, you’ll never have any more.” And with that, the witch flew away on her broom laughing to herself.

Tim took what the witch had said to heart. He began to watch Maggie and saw that, sure enough, she was very generous, giving warm Fuzzies to the children and all her friends. Tim complained to Maggie that he didn’t think it was right for her to be giving so many warm Fuzzies to other people. He warned her that she might run out and then wouldn’t have any left for him. And because she loved him very much, Maggie listened to his words, stopped giving out warm Fuzzies freely, and reserved them all for him.

“*Warm Fuzzies*” (continued)

The children watched this and soon began to get the idea that it was wrong to give away warm Fuzzies any time you felt like it. They began to worry whenever they gave warm Fuzzies to others. Even though they found a warm fuzzy every single time they reached into their bags, they reached in less and less and became more and more stingy. Soon, people all over the community began to hold onto their warm Fuzzies and, because of the lack of them, everyone felt less and less happy. Some people who didn't receive any Fuzzies at all even got a sickness and began to die. More and more people went to Wanda the Witch for her potions and salves, even though they didn't seem to work.

The situation was beginning to get serious. Wanda didn't really want all the people to die because they surely couldn't use her potions and salves then—and so she came up with another master plan. She got some pieces of plastic, covered them warm and fluffy, and began to pass them off as counterfeit Fuzzies. This complicated the situation even more.

For instance, people would get together and exchange Fuzzies, but instead of feeling good they came away feeling bad. And people all over the community became confused, and no one felt happy any more. The whole situation was dismal—and it all started because Wanda the Witch made people believe that some day they might reach into their bags and find no more warm Fuzzies.

Then one day a new person came to town. She was the new school teacher and she had never heard of Wanda the Witch. She went around the school freely giving the children warm Fuzzies again—whenever she felt like it. The parents became alarmed and even considered passing a law to make it a criminal offense to give out warm Fuzzies recklessly. But the children and the teacher didn't seem to care and went right on exchanging warm Fuzzies and making each other feel happy and good. Then all at once everyone understood. Wanda the Witch had fooled them. The witch was no more than hate, envy, and selfishness, and they had been taken in! Everyone then, and everyone now, will always have plenty of warm Fuzzies to give, and there's no need to be afraid of running out.

Based on work from Viva Health Science Museum, Hemisfair Plaza, San Antonio, Texas, 1974.