



Missed Cues A Reflective Activity

Developed by Debbie Bambino.

This activity might be used as an intro to giving/receiving feedback, unpacking assumptions or LASW.

The following selection is from *Pictures of Hollis Woods* by Patricia Reilly Giff.

This picture has a dollop of peanut butter on one edge, a smear of grape jelly on the other, and an X across the whole thing. I cut it out of a magazine for homework when I was six years old. "Look for words that begin with W," my teacher, Mrs. Evans, had said.

She was the one who marked in the X, spoiling my picture. She pointed. "This is a picture of a family, Hollis. A mother, M, a father, F, a brother, B, a sister, S. They're standing in front of their house, H. I don't see one W word here."

I opened my mouth to say: How about W for wish, or W for want, or W for "Wouldn't it be lovely," like the song the music teacher had taught us?

But Mrs. Evans was at the next table by that time, shushing me over her shoulder.

- Please read the excerpt and jot down your first impressions of the teacher and student. (2 minute quick write)
- Have you ever been so rushed that you missed an opportunity to unpack a student's "wrong" answer? Briefly describe the circumstances. (2 minutes)
- How might our collaboration help us read our student's cues accurately in order to support their learning and development? (5 minutes)
- Pair-Share (10 minutes)
- Debrief as a group (12-15 minutes)