

# SEL Discussion Guide

## The Sandwich Boy Rescue

thoughts & drawings  
by (Rodro) Rodriguez

### SEL FOCUS

- Relationship Skills
- Understanding Family Dynamics (Getting Along)
- Friendships and Extended Families
- Self-Regulation/Self-Control
- Coping With Tragedy
- Community Support



# THE SANDWICH BOY RESCUE

## Here's why this book is important!

No family is perfect.

Kids and parents won't always see eye to eye.

Arguments and fights will happen,

but—

with patience, understanding, and respect, we can minimize the drama.

It's all about feelings and points of view!

If we talk it out, we usually feel better.

And—

when tragedy strikes, it's amazing to see our loving instincts kick in.

Relationship skills are one of the greatest challenges in life.

Family is family. It's true what they say,  
"We have to be strong to get through the day."

This book teaches our children—

**Family is where the heart lives!**

Sometimes it's traditional, and sometimes it's not, but we can always  
rely on the ones who truly love us.



Dear Parent,

Thank you for purchasing this Rodro book and welcome to Rodro Books and Education.

When it comes to parents bonding with their children, the bedtime story is one of our oldest, most cherished, and valuable traditions. Throughout history, all parents, all around the world, have passed along life's lessons to their children through the wonderful and instructional stories of their cultures. Yet, within this tradition, we tend to take for granted the most important part— answering the questions of our children's endlessly curious brains. I recognize and value the vital role that discussing these questions plays in shaping their hearts and minds. This is what inspired me to design the Rodro book collection specifically for parents, educators, and children to share.

No matter who does the reading (child, parent, or educator), there is plenty for you and your children to share and explore together. Below, you will find Rodro's Discussion Guides with Convo-Questions about each story's character-enriching, social-emotional themes. As the name implies, it's more than just a question and answer; it's questions that stimulate conversations and lead to learning. The type of learning that enables our children to analyze, internalize, and utilize the knowledge they acquire.

One of the essential functions of the books is to provide a safe space to discuss issues that may be scary or awkward. We understand that children may have questions or concerns about the stories in the books. The Rodro books are designed to help children understand and process these issues. Through the use of Convo-Questions, we encourage children to think critically and express their thoughts and feelings. This process helps children develop the skills they need to cope with life's challenges and build resilience. The Rodro books are a valuable resource for parents and educators alike, providing a safe and supportive environment for children to learn and grow.

**PREVIEW**

With your Rodro book purchase, you have gained more than just a story; you have acquired an indispensable resource for your children's personal social, and emotional growth. Rodro books are a link to learning that puts them in control of their future! Learning that begins with Rodro's stories and Convo-Questions and expands with Rodro's programs, educational materials, and learning tools. Rodro's educational resources help you provide your children with the essential character-enriching and social-emotional learning skills that they need to succeed.

Compassionately Yours,

*Paul Rodriguez*

# The Sandwich Boy Rescue



## Story Summary and Analysis

This section is for parents and educators who are interested in learning more about Social-Emotional Learning and related topics. It is not essential to the Convo-Questions and the learning that goes with them. This analysis just adds more information to the “Here’s why this book is important!” page.

When disaster strikes— siblings, parents, and the whole community come together as one big family to save the day.

In the story *The Sandwich Boy Rescue*, the characters act out typical sibling and family relationships. For children 6-10 years old, relationships are both simple and complicated. At this developmental stage, relationships are simple because children only have an elementary understanding of what they are and how they function. On the other hand, relationships are complicated for them because they are constantly processing new information. They are also still learning to identify and regulate their emotions and the actions that go with those emotions.

The sense of security provided by the strong emotional bonds of primary caregivers in early childhood allows children to be able to trust others and develop positive relationships. However, many other factors come into play. This is why it is important to consider the whole child by approaching social and emotional learning from a behavioral, environmental, and biological point of view. Unique minds, families, and socio-economic conditions are all factors of consideration for each child during these

# PREVIEW

Older sister- “Now she annoys me and gets in my hair.  
(Before) My mother just lets her. It so isn’t fair.”

Older sister- “Take my hand quickly and stand on your seat  
(After) before the cold water gets up to your feet!”

## FOCUS QUESTIONS

Who is your family?

**INSIGHT:** For educators who are not familiar with the details of the home life of a student it is important not to make assumptions. Please, remember that not every child is part of a traditional family. We must support them in valuing those who are family to them.

## CONVO-QUESTIONS

Refer to book page(s) to use the text and illustrations to support answers. Model this process for your children. Encourage responses with explanations, then discuss the responses provided.

1. What was your favorite part of the story? Why?
2. Who embarrasses and annoys Rodro? How?

**Answer** (Pg. 2): *Rodro's mom embarrasses him by interrupting the morning announcements and calling him chunky cheeks while the whole school is listening. Then she makes it even worse by saying that she brought his favorite lunch, PB & J.*

Hi Chunky Cheeks. It's your mommy. ("No way!")  
I brought you your lunch; it's a PB&J.

**INSIGHT:** As mentioned above, it is essential to be aware of how we interact with our children's subtle, complex, and delicate social worlds. At the same time we push them to be independent; part of us may never want them to grow up. It can become confusing. We say, "Be a big boy/girl, go to school, and take care of yourself." But we also say, "Don't forget that I am your parent, I am taking care of you, and you must do as I say." We have to teach them independence while keeping them under control. We have to give them space to celebrate success and space to learn from failure. Accountability for both the ups and the downs is

# PREVIEW

Why do moms always embarrass their kids?