

Squircle – the wonderful round box

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Theme: Being unique

Appropriate age group: All age groups



Once upon a time there was a round box called Squircle who lived in Shape Land. Now, all the other boxes that lived in Shape Land were square. But Squircle was round so he always felt a little different from the other boxes. Yes, he looked different on the outside because he was round and the others were square. But he also felt he was very different on the inside. He just didn't know what made him feel different!

The other boxes often laughed at Squircle. They didn't talk to him, they just called him names and they left him out of their games. This made Squircle feel really bad. He thought there must be something badly wrong with him.

Sometimes Squircle sat all by himself, away from the other boxes. But sometimes he tried very hard to look and act just like the other boxes. First he tried to make to make his round

body look like a square box. He pulled in his round tummy as much as he could and he sucked the air out of his round cheeks. When he did this, the other boxes sometimes let him play with them. But he couldn't jump or run fast because he had to keep pulling in his tummy and sucking in his cheeks.

No matter how much he tried to be like the other boxes, Squircle still felt different. He hated feeling different but what could he do?

One night when all the other boxes in Shape Land were asleep, Squircle was still wide awake. He looked at the neat rows of squares and then he looked at his round body and gave a big sigh. He couldn't stand it any more so he sneaked outside to go for a walk in the dark. He hoped the walk would make him tired so he could fall asleep and forget his troubles.

As Squircle was walking down the path, he tripped and fell over a rock. He got up slowly, rubbing the sore places on his body. There was a hole in his chest where the box had torn a little – and he noticed something very strange. There was a very powerful and beautiful light shining out of the hole! He put his hand over the hole and the light went dim but it was still there. When he took his hand away the light shone brightly again. In fact, it shone so brightly that the moon thought the sun was rising in Shape Land.

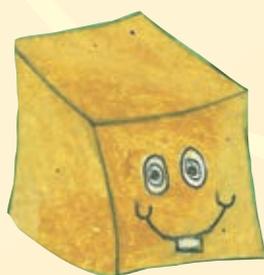
Squircle felt very confused. He'd never seen a light like this in the other boxes. Why did he have a light inside him? What was it all about? He didn't want the other boxes to see the light or they would just tease him even more. So day after day he kept the light hidden. He didn't tell anyone or let anyone see it. It was hard work keeping the light covered and Squircle got really exhausted but he didn't want the others to know about his inside light.

One night, all the boxes in Shape Land were sleeping. It was a very dark night and the moon was nowhere to be seen. A little baby box woke up in the middle of the night. She couldn't see in the dark and she couldn't find her Mommy so she started to cry. Squircle heard the crying and went over to comfort the baby but nothing he said made the baby feel better, and she cried even louder.

Squircle wasn't sure what to do. Then he had an idea: "Maybe the baby will stop crying if I shine my light". Slowly he took away the hand that covered the hole. The baby box became quieter and put out her hand to touch the light. Soon, she was making happy sounds. While Squircle was shining the light, he didn't notice that some of the other boxes had come to see why the baby was crying. They saw what he was doing. As soon as he noticed they were there, he tried quickly to cover up the light. But it was too late! All the boxes had seen the light. Squircle felt ashamed and scared.

He waited for the other boxes to start calling him names and teasing him...

Then a strange thing happened. One box stepped forward and said, "Your light is wonderful, Squircle". Another said, "Your light can help us when it's very dark." Squircle was amazed that the other boxes weren't teasing him. They could see he had a really special talent – he was the only box in Shape Land with a light.



And now, if you go to Shape Land you can see all the wonderful things Squirele is doing. He shines his light when the moon wants a night off. He is the spotlight when the boxes put on a play. He gives off a wonderful glow for all the young boxes who are afraid of the dark. And on cold winter nights he uses his light to warm everyone.

But the most wonderful thing is that Squirele knows it doesn't matter what you look like on the outside. It doesn't matter if you are different from others. What really matters is what you are like on the inside. Inside you are all the wonderful things that make you YOU! If you know and believe that it's good to be who you are, you will truly shine.

? Possible discussion points:

- *I need to acknowledge that I am unique – with my own strengths and challenges.*
- *How can we identify each other's talents and value them?*

