Title of Book: *Strictly No Elephants*

Author: Lisa Mantchev

Topic: Including others and social skills

**Book Introduction**

Today we are going to read a book about a boy and his elephant who don’t fit in with the other members of “The Pet Club” and feel left out.

What does it mean to be left out? (Have students share)
Can you think of a time that you felt left out? (Have students give a thumbs up if they can and acknowledge responses)

Let’s see how they solve their problem.

**Stopping Points/Turn and Talk/Questions**

- On the cover, We cannot see the boy’s face, but using the title can you infer how the boy is feeling?
- What does the word *strictly* mean? At school we have rules where this word may work, “Strictly no throwing snow.” What rules do you have at home that could use this word?
- On the next page, *I always go back and help him over.* What does the boy mean when he says friends help each other over cracks? What is author telling us about friendship? What evidence or clues do you have to show this?
- On the page, *When I look up there is a sign on the door.* Now we can see the boy’s face from the picture on the cover. Where your inferences right? How would that make you feel if you had an elephant as a pet?
- On the page, *The sign didn’t mention skunks*—What do you think the boy means when he says, “they don’t know any better?”
- On the page *So we paint our own sign*—What does their sign read? What does this sign tell us about the author’s message?
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<th>Whole Group Discussion</th>
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<td>At the end, what do you think the lesson or message is? What places in the book helped you figure this out or what evidence shows this?</td>
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<th>Follow Up Activity (As Applicable)</th>
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<td>Students return to desk and write in journal about ways to include others.</td>
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