

### Novel Resource #3

Title: Pinduli  
Author: Janell Cannon  
Illustrator: Janell Cannon  
Publisher: Harcourt, INC. 2004

#### Author and Illustrator:

Janelle Cannon lives in Southern California. She is an award-winning author and illustrator of picture books about all different kinds of animals. The first hyena Janelle ever saw was at the San Diego zoo. A friend of hers who worked there introduced her to a hyena and she loved the hyena's face and striped coat. In an interview with her she said, "often people approach this hyena and comment on her beauty, not knowing what kind of animal she was. But as soon as they saw the hyena label on her enclosure, negative comments began to flow". Janelle Cannon commented that, "The hyena is yet another misunderstood creature, and I hope to expand readers' views by featuring a lesser-known species of the animal and by including non-fiction information about all four kinds of hyenas in the back of the book."

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Internal Conflict: Pinduli struggles with his self-esteem as the other animals make negative comments to him.

External Conflict: The animals were mean to Pinduli, and Pinduli and his mom had to scrounge for food.

Conflict Resolution: Pinduli (great spirit) told the other animals that they must find out why the animals they had encountered were so rude to them. The animals made peace with those who were mean to them, and from that day on things changed. The animals got along, and Pinduli and his mom had an ample supply of food

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Genre: SUPERNATURAL fiction

IL: K-4

RL: 3-5

Theme: Being rude to others is unkind, and often times it originates from someone else making a similar comment. We must make peace with those who offend us, instead of carrying over to someone else.

Point Of View: The story is written in third person, from the point of view of a child who gets picked on.

The illustrator does an excellent job using a shading technique to capture the form in all the pictures. The illustrations on the left side of the pages were black and white ink drawings using a line technique. The illustrations on the right side of the pages were more realistic, showed expression, and would be aesthetically appealing to young children because they are so colorful.

Characters: Main Character: Pinduli (She is a young, helpful, but brave hyena, who gets picked on by other animals)

other characters: (Pinduli's mom, dogs, zebras, lions)

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#### Booktalk:

Pinduli is a picture book story that takes place during the day in a place called Africa. Africa is one of the seven continents. It is about a hyena named Pinduli who meets several other animals as she goes to look for food. Throughout the story, Pinduli feels bad about herself. The other animals are not very nice to her, and it makes her feel sad. Pinduli and her mom have a hard time finding food, which makes them very frustrated. Pinduli is a very brave hyena, and keeps looking for food even when the other animals are mean to her. The dogs make fun of Pinduli's ears, and laugh at her. The lion makes Pinduli feel like there is something wrong with her coat. The zebra doesn't have anything nice to say about Pinduli's stripes. By this time, Pinduli is feeling very sad. All of a sudden, an amazing creature comes out of nowhere. The creature is the great spirit. The great spirit causes everyone in the story to change. The story will teach us how we should behave when someone is not nice to us.

#### Annotation:

The book has a creative way of teaching a lesson about how to treat others. The setting of the story takes place outside in Africa during the daytime. The mood of the beginning story is sad, because Pinduli and her mom are without food, and Pinduli gets made fun of by other animals. The illustrations in the story convey the mood of the story, because the expressions on the face of the Pinduli let us know he is feeling sad. The qualities that the animals are making fun of about Pinduli are those which they felt insecure about in themselves. Sometimes someone makes fun of others, because someone makes fun of them. The insecurity that develops as a result of this is addressed, and an imaginative solution to the problem presents itself. I was surprised to see how the conflict in the story was resolved. Children like to pretend about not only animals talking, but magical things happening. The story does a great job at capturing imagination in young children. The story is a great example for comparing reality and imagination, which can make for a great lesson on fiction vs. non-fiction. Janell Cannon does an excellent job with capturing the expression in the eyes of the animals. I can actually tell by looking at the pictures, how the animals are feeling. When the conflict is resolved, the animals have a peaceful look in their eyes.

#### Read-Aloud Passages:

1. "In order to appeal bad spirits, you must find your tormentors and make peace." (The animal had to face those who hurt their feelings.)
2. "A Ghost!" the animal screamed, "An evil spirit is upon us!" This passage is funny, because the other animal actually think Pinduli is a great spirit.



Janell Cannon