

Truman's Loose Tooth - Reading Guide

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Themes: loose teeth, unexpected change, development

Lesson/Notes: For many children, it helps to explain what natural changes (like losing teeth) will be like before they happen. Children can identify with Truman's feelings and experiences and learn that losing teeth is a normal part of development. Some children feel anxious about growing up. It can help to talk about changes and listen to how your child feels.

Discussion Questions

- *At first, how does Truman feel about his wiggly tooth? How can you tell? (nervous, anxious; stomach hurts, worrying "what ifs")*
- *How does Truman feel after his tooth falls out? (proud)*
- *How do other kids and adults react about Truman losing his tooth? (excited for him)*
- *What did Truman get in exchange for his tooth? (money from tooth fairy)*
- *Was losing a tooth part of Truman's normal routine? How can we respond when something happens that we are not expecting? (No. Ask questions, share feelings, etc.)*

Activity: Before and After

Supplies: page 2 photos

- Cut out the photos on the next page.
 - Optional: laminate photo cards for future use.
- Ask child to match the "before and after" pictures (page 2).
- Discuss how every person (and every living thing) goes through changes while growing up. Small changes are how a baby grows to be a child then a teenager then an adult.
 - If child has questions about development, take them seriously and answer honestly (and appropriately for his/her developmental stage).
 - Caregivers, children may enjoy looking at their own baby pictures for this activity.
- *Just like small body changes slowly grow you into an adult, small choices slowly grow your character. What kind of person do you want to be?*

