

## ***Ricky Sticky Fingers - Reading Guide***

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Themes: (not) stealing, responsibility, empathy, integrity

Lesson/Notes: While children are responsible for their actions, take care not to humiliate or lecture a child. Children steal for varying reasons including neglect at home, difficulty adjusting to a change, and needing attention; try to understand why a child is stealing. In some cases (especially if it's a continuing issue), you may need to consult with the child's school counselor or other mental health professional. *Our conscience uses guilt to teach us right from wrong. If you feel guilty when you do something wrong, that's the good inside of you telling you to do the right thing.*

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### **Discussion Questions**

- *What did Ricky do that was wrong? (stole gum, slime wads, ninja, and lied about it)*
- *P. 15 Do you know the word that describes how Ricky is feeling? (guilty, ashamed)*
- *When Ricky stole things, was the good or bad winning inside of him? (bad)*
- *How did Ricky feel when his bike was stolen? (sad, mad)*
- *What did Ricky do to take responsibility for his actions/ make it right? (apologized, returned stolen items)*
- *What made him feel better? (telling the truth)*

### **Activity: Empathy Scenarios**

- The following scenarios are designed to practice empathy and taking responsibility by identifying what someone else might be feeling and identifying what would be the right thing to do in the situation. Discuss the scenarios, or even act them out with puppets.
  - Jacob took Sarah's toy without asking. How might Sarah feel? (angry) Can you make an angry face? What should Jacob do? (apologize, return the toy, ask next time)
  - Ellie's mom made her favorite lunch. How does Ellie feel? (happy) What should she say to her mom? (Thank you)
  - Sarah accidentally kicked Hannah's shin when they were playing soccer. How does Hannah probably feel? (hurt, sad, mad) What should Ellie do? (apologize, check if Hannah is okay)
  - Hannah and Jacob were working on a puzzle. Hannah became frustrated and broke the puzzle. How might Jacob feel? (sad, angry, disappointed) It's okay to feel frustrated, but it's not okay to be hurtful. What should Hannah do? (apologize, use I-message)