A Bad Case of Stripes  Written By:  David Shannon

**Goal:** A Bad Case of Stripes helps us to understand that we should not be afraid to be different. Holding in our true feelings, concerns and emotions can sometimes make us feel ill.

Camilla Cream loves lima beans, but she never, never eats them. Why? Because other kids in her school don’t like them, and Camilla Cream is very, very worried what other people think of her. In fact, she is so worried that she is about to break out in…. a bad case of stripes.

1. Show the cover of the book and ask the children to read the title.

2. What is Camilla Cream doing on the cover?

3. Read the story stopping from time to time to ask:

   a. What did Camilla Cream love and others didn’t?
   b. What was Camilla always worried about? Are you worried about what other people think of you?
   c. What was Camilla covered in from head to toe?
   d. What was the first doctor’s name? What did he give to Camilla to help clean up the stripes?
   e. What name did the children call Camilla? What happened during the pledge of allegiance?
   f. When the other children called out colors and patterns what happened to Camilla?
   g. Do you think it was fair that Camilla could not come back to school?
   h. Can you remember all the names of the Doctors Camilla saw?
What did the T.V. news call Camilla?
Who finally came to help Camilla?
What did she do to make Camilla better?
Why do you think Camilla had stripes?
Do you like lima beans?

What does the story teach us?
What does it feel like to be teased? It’s not fun, when you like something that other don’t. Having someone in the military and being a military youth sometimes makes you feel different. Discuss at this time how youth are different from those they go to school with.

Activity:

- Being a military child can also make you very proud of your service member. Draw a picture of service person and yourself. Look up on a map were your service person is stationed and work out how far away they are. Have a parent ask ahead of time if you can present this knowledge at your school. Collect items and do research on the country or state where the service member is located. Make it a special day; you may be different but you are special and proud. Have the class write letters to your service member, and have them write back.

- Draw a picture of some of your favorite foods; see how different you are from the other military children in your group. Do you like something that no one else in the group likes? Would that stop you from eating it?

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