POINT OF VIEW LESSON

SESSION 1

1. Explain to students that point of view refers to how a person or character looks at, or views, an object or a situation.

2. Begin with a book by David M. Schwartz from the Look Once, Look Again series. Show students the first pair of photographs. Point out that although both pictures are of the same object, they look different. Ask students, “What causes them to look different?” Lead students to conclude that the “Look Once” picture was taken from close up and that the “Look Again” picture was taken from further away. Two perspectives, or points of view, are evident in the photographs. Show students more pairs of photographs from the book, explaining the different points of view.

3. Tell students that, like in the photographs, characters may view objects from perspectives that differ from their own. To appreciate the plot of a story and understand the actions of the characters, students must understand the characters’ differing points of view.

4. Show students the cover illustration from Two Bad Ants, a story in which the main characters are ants. Read the story aloud. Discuss how the text and the illustrations show objects from an ant’s point of view. Ask students how an ant’s view is different from a person’s view.

Do objects look big or small to an ant?

What might your shoe look like to an ant?

What might your classroom look like to an ant?

5. Have students work together in small groups. Give each group a copy of Two Bad Ants. Ask them to examine the illustrations and the text to find more evidence of situations described from the ant’s point of view.

6. Distribute the Point of View Chart to students. Have them work in small groups to think of everyday items that ants see one way and people see another. Have students record their findings on the chart. For example, under “A Person’s Point of View,” students might write “grass,” and under “An Ant’s Point of View,” they might write “forest.”

7. Reread Two Bad Ants to students. Ask them if their understanding has improved since they first listened to the story. If so, ask them to tell what aspects of point of view they understand better.