

The House Of Mirrors

Like any other teenager, Katrina sometimes struggles with self-acceptance and body image, and has a hard time talking about it directly. I find her use of the House of Mirrors an interesting metaphor for self-evaluation. She is also working on nonliteral language as she plays with the figure of speech, "Little pitchers have big ears." I love the way she ends so many of her stories with a moral. Here it is, " With a little help from my advice and the House Of Mirrors, she learned that people come in different shapes and sizes. And no matter how you look different, you're always gonna love yourself just the way you are."

Katrina Manalo and Abby Cadabby are best friends who love playing together. They played dress up, they do magic tricks with their wands, but most of all, they love playing with dolls. Abby showed Katrina all her favorite dolls that are fairy tale and nursery rhyme characters. Abby loves fairy tales and Mother Goose rhymes. She showed Katrina Little Red Riding Hood, Goldilocks, and her fairy tale princess dolls.

"And wait till you see this, Pixie Dust Tinkerbell doll." Abby showed Katrina a very special doll.

"Wow Abby, your dolls are amazing, don't you just wish you could be like Tinkerbell?" Katrina was investigative.

"Someday I will, I'll be right back." Abby flew to see her mommy Mrs. Cadabby.

"Mommy, remember when I got two Tinkerbell dolls, one from Snow White and one from Cinderella? I was wondering if I could give the extra Tinkerbell doll to my new friend Katrina for a surprise?" she asked.

Mrs. Cadabby whispered: "Shush Abby, some eighteen-year-olds have big ears."

"You mean, Katrina has big ears?" Abby asked.

"My ears are big?" Katrina gasped fearing the worst.

"No Abby, that's not what I meant, it's just an expression meaning Katrina might hear you, then your surprise wouldn't be a surprise." said Mrs. Cadabby.

"Then it's okay with you?" Abby asked ag.

"Certainly, Katrina's your best friend." said Mrs. Cadabby.

Katrina panicked: "I have to go!"

"Huh, but I've got a surprise for you." Abby said as Katrina left her house. Katrina ran very upset thinking about what Mrs. Cadabby had said. She ran so fast that she didn't see Elmo and his friends Grover and Cookie Monster.

"Hey Katrina, we've been talking about you, Chris was saying what a good job you did on your school work." Elmo said, but Katrina kept running. She ran past 1-2-3 Sesame Street, past Oscar's trash can, and finally, she ran straight into my apartment. She ran up the stairs and into our bedroom where she jumped in her bed and hid under her pink and purple comforter. Meanwhile in our office, I was looking at an advertisement on my computer. There's going to be a carnival on Sesame Street. There will be games, rides, delicious food, and entertainment. Plus, there's even the House Of Mirrors that you can go to, when you look at yourself in one of them, you are a different shape or size. I paid my money, and guess what? I got free tickets to go to the carnival. Just then my Sesame friends came over and heard about it. They asked me excitedly if I want to go to the Sesame Street carnival.

"Of course, as soon as I pay my money." I said.

"Hey Kermit, did you notice something strange about your wife Katrina?" Grover interrupted.

"She was running so fast and breathing very hard. Elmo thinks she had a fight with Abby Cadabby or something." said Elmo.

"Then we better go talk to her." suggested Cookie Monster.

"No guys I will, besides, Katrina's not only my wife, she's also my best friend too. It feels better when best friends help each other. Why don't you three go right ahead to the carnival, I'll help Katrina." I turned to my friends and went upstairs. I searched everywhere for Katrina, finally, I came to our bedroom and found Katrina lying in bed. I came close to her and knelt down beside her.

"Katrina!, there you are, why are you hiding in bed?, you look kinda worried." I asked.

"I have big ears!" Katrina explained what happened today.

"Oh my, you don't have big ears, where did you ever hear that saying?" I asked.

"At Abby Cadabby's house!" a thought bubble appeared in Katrina's mind. It had an image of Abby Cadabby and her mommy having a conversation: "Some eighteen-year-olds have big ears." "You mean, Katrina has big ears?" they said in the imagery, then the thought bubble popped and floated away.

"It's true Kermit, I do have big ears, big as an elephant's!" Katrina was still upset.

"Oh Katrina, you don't have big ears, besides, your ears are just the right size for listening and hearing. You know, people come in all different shapes and sizes depending on their skin, or hair, or body parts." I told my best friend. Katrina pulled the comforter over her head still worried.

"Oh if only there's another way I could make it up to you." I lay down beside her bed sobbing. Katrina doesn't understand, how am I going to show her what shapes and sizes are? Just then, an idea came to my head, I showed Katrina the carnival tickets.

"Look wife, there's going to be a carnival on Sesame Street today. Plus, there's even the House Of Mirrors. I'll bet we can go there and take a look at ourselves and find out about our insides and outsides. How about it Katrina?"

"Sure, I guess." Katrina pulled off her comforter and began to smile a little bit.

"Great, let's go." I went downstairs at the front door where my best friend will meet me. When we got to the Sesame Street carnival, we paid for our tickets at the ticket booth. When we got to the House Of Mirrors, I showed Katrina my funny reflection. I was narrow on the outside and thin on the inside. Katrina tried another mirror: she was plump on the outside and thick on the inside. We both tried the third mirror: in this reflection, we look like cute kitty cats. We tried the fourth mirror: Katrina was super tall and I'm super short. Katrina and I tried lots of mirrors in the House Of Mirrors. Our reflections were curly, swirly, thin, fat, stout, upside down, and totally silly.

After that, I turned to my best friend: "You see Katrina, everybody comes in different shapes and sizes. All you have to do is love yourself from your outside to your inside."

"You're right Kermit, I do love myself from my inside to my outside. And even though I don't have big ears, I still love myself just the way I am." smiled Katrina. I'm very proud of her for showing her differences and for being just herself. We continued our journey throughout Sesame Street carnival. We went on rides, we played games, and now, we're sharing a fresh julep. A julep is a nonalcoholic drink with sugar and crushed ice. As we were going to finish the last sip, Abby Cadabby and her mommy dropped in.

"Hi Abby, boy, I'm so glad you and your mom came to the carnival. Abby, I heard your mom said that I have big ears." Katrina said.

"No she didn't, she said that you might hear me then my surprise wouldn't be a surprise. And it just so happens that I have a surprise for you right now." Abby gave Katrina her extra Tinkerbell doll.

"It's Pixie Dust Tinkerbell, it's from Cinderella."

"Oh thank you Abby, I love it. You know Abby, people say that you talk a lot, so if you don't mind, I wouldn't hear you say silly stuff again because I know you have a bigmouth." laughed Katrina. With a little help from my advice and the House Of Mirrors,

she learned that people come in different shapes and sizes. And no matter how you look different, you're always gonna love yourself just the way you are.