



After the Fall

by Dan Santat

Classroom Discussion & SEL Guide

After the Fall follows Humpty Dumpty as he copes with fear and self-doubt after a traumatic fall. Afraid to take risks again, Humpty slowly learns—through small, brave steps and encouragement—that mistakes and setbacks do not define who he is. Dan Santat’s expressive illustrations vividly convey emotion and growth, making this story an excellent anchor text for resilience, courage, and social-emotional learning.

Instructional Focus

- Resilience and perseverance
- Courage and risk-taking
- Growth mindset
- Social-emotional learning (SEL)
- Personal connection to text

Read-Aloud & Discussion Prompts

- How does Humpty feel after his fall?
- What makes him afraid to try again?
- What helps Humpty take small steps forward?
- How do his feelings change from the beginning to the end of the story?

Why This Book Matters

After the Fall is a powerful mentor text for discussing perseverance, emotional growth, and self-confidence. It supports classroom conversations around growth mindset and social-emotional learning while encouraging students to view mistakes as part of learning.