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Will Giraffe Laugh?

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Giraffe is having a bad day. He does not feel like laughing, even when his friends try to cheer him up. They come by one by one, each with a new idea to get Giraffe laughing. One friend juggles, another puts on a puppet show, and another makes Giraffe a balloon animal. Despite these efforts, Giraffe still refuses to laugh. Giraffe’s grumpy mood begins to cause his friends to feel discouraged and sad themselves. When Giraffe realizes that he has hurt his friends, roles reverse, and Giraffe begins to cheer up his friends. By the end of the story, everyone is laughing together and feeling better.

Will Giraffe Laugh? is a board book perfect for toddlers and preschool age children as it explores the interplay between emotion and friendship. Through Giraffe and his friends’ experience, readers see that having kind, caring friends is important, but that it is also important to be a kind, caring friend in return. This book also normalizes emotion, helping children to recognize and process their own negative emotions. The story has an easily followed pattern of repeated text for every friend that tries to cheer up giraffe. The illustrations are colorful, bright and simple. Some of the pictures and page turns add humor, like when Bear is juggling to make Giraffe feel better on one page, and the next page showing Bear on the ground with his juggling items strewn around the floor. The book is sturdy with thick cardboard pages and quality construction and will handle a fair amount of toddler use. Will Giraffe Laugh? is a book that young readers will love and learn from.