

TRAPPED

ABOUT:

Winston isn't a barker unless someone is at the door or if there are sneaky squirrels in the yard. However, if he is doing something he wants to do, he ignores us. (Scotties are known to be stubborn.)

One afternoon, we couldn't find him. The more we called him, and he didn't respond, the more concerned we grew. Our tone got a little frantic. "Winston? Where are you boy? Come here!" Then I decided he had chased a deer into the woods and was ignoring us. So, I yelled, "Winston Apple, you better get your furry black tail home!"

Still, no Winston. So I walked back in my mind and remembered the last time I saw him was in the screened porch by Neal's recliner. When I checked I heard Winston rattle his collar. And there he was, trapped under the recliner.

PURPOSE:

In this story I want children to know the importance of speaking up when they feel trapped or confused. Be ready to assure them if they don't know something it okay to ask. In addition, help children to understand that it is not okay to laugh when others don't understand things. Unfortunately, some children are abused, and it is critical that they know there are caring adults that they can trust.

SUGGESTIONS:

For children who are being abused, emotionally or physically feeling safe is important. Think of a way for a child to speak with you privately without the other children knowing. For example, when I speak publicly about sensitive topics attendees are given cards to fill out. Anyone who wanted to speak with me privately was told to bend one corner.

Something along this line would work for children. Have them fold a piece of paper in half and ask them to draw a picture about this story. Also tell them that if something is making them feel trapped, unsafe, or frightened, to make an x somewhere inside the picture. When they finish have them write their name on the outside and hand it in. This will give you the opportunity to help a child who may really need to talk.

IDEAS:

- **Look up things about deer. What kinds, where they sleep, what they eat.**
- **Do something with whistles or flutes. It would be fun to introduce children to Native American music.**
- **Have the children whistle a song.**
- **Explore the different signals given by whistles.**
- **Talk about animal-friendly live traps**
- **Check with the local animal control and see if someone would come speak to the class about their job and their strangest experiences while removing an animal.**