Today’s challenge is “a dragon breathing something other than fire.” Mr. J briefly explores first impressions and the importance of getting to know someone for yourself. Recognizing that we are all unique can be the spark to start new friendships and lead to understanding.

Ohio SEL Standards
These activities align with Strategy number 7 of Ohio’s Strategic Plan for Education, Each Child, Our Future, which focuses on working to help schools meet the needs of the whole child.

Social Awareness:
C.1.1.a: Identify facial and body cues representing feelings in others
C.1.1.b: Identify verbal and nonverbal cues representing feelings in others
C.3.1.a: Discuss how people can be the same or different
C.3.1.b: Discuss positive and negative opinions people may have about other people or groups, even if they aren’t always true
C.4.1.a: Recognize social cues in different settings
C.4.1.b: Identify others’ reactions by tone of voice, body language and facial expressions

This video aligns with Ohio’s Early Learning and Development Standard Sa4, Recognize and identify own emotions and the emotions of others; and Sa6, Identify the diversity in human characteristics and how people are similar and different. (Pre-Kindergarten)

View and Sketch: 5 minutes
Distribute sticky notes or small scraps of paper to your students and allow them to sketch along with Mr. J as they watch the video. We encourage you to share students’ work on Twitter @WOSU_Classroom #DrawingWithMrJ

Chat: 5-10 minutes
After viewing the video with the class, choose 1-2 discussion questions to work through in whole or small groups or as a writing prompt.
- **Help students visualize (internally) how easy it is to make assumptions about people.** For your first day in this class, what kind of teacher did you think I would be? How has that changed?
- **Promote healthy expressions of getting to know people.** What impressions do you give off when you frown? Smile? Roll your eyes?
- **Promote awareness and/or empathy for people that appear to be unapproachable.** What are some conversation starters we can use to get to know people better?
Read: 10 minutes
Use these picture books to spark continued conversation with students about the feelings discussed in the video.
• It's Okay to be a Unicorn! by Jason Tharp
• Mostly Monsterly by Tammi Sauer
• The Invisible Boy by Trudy Ludwig

Share: (Home to School Connection)
To strengthen the home to school connection, keep families informed about the work happening in the classroom. Feel free to copy or adjust the following message to include in class newsletters.

Today, your child learned about first impressions and the importance of getting to know someone for yourself. Our class discussion focused on:
• Help students visualize (internally) how easy it is to make assumptions about people. For your first day in this class, what kind of teacher did you think I would be? How has that changed?
• Promote healthy expressions of getting to know people. What impressions do you give off when you frown? Smile? Roll your eyes?
• Promote awareness and/or empathy for people that appear to be unapproachable. What are some conversation starters we can use to get to know people better?

We encourage you to continue the conversation at home. There are many wonderful books that explore today’s topic. A few that we recommend include:
• It’s Okay to be a Unicorn! by Jason Tharp
• Mostly Monsterly by Tammi Sauer
• The Invisible Boy by Trudy Ludwig

Extend:
• Challenge students to work in groups to find 2-3 different ways to greet a person. Encourage creativity by having them consider different languages and/or having them create fun handshakes.
• Classroom Community Building: If possible, have students bring in one baby picture. Once you have the pictures, display the pictures and have students see if they can figure out who it is. Once the correct guess has been made, have that student share one of their favorite childhood memories and/or background about their childhood.
• PBS Learning Media: Usher: Unique | Sesame Street, wosu.pm/usher
• PBS Learning Media: Self Portrait with Arthur, wosu.pm/selfportrait