

HAWKS & HEDGEHOGS

That excuse raises a red flag!

Materials: Worksheets, pre-cut red flags, pencils, markers, timer, tape, Popsicle® sticks

Directions: Read the worksheet, complete the activity and discuss with the Group.

What does the expression “it raised a red flag” mean? It means someone sees a warning signal of a potential danger or problem that lies ahead.

Why is the raised flag red? Because red is the color used to say STOP.

Red is a warning color that sends a message to your brain. The message says, “Hold on. Something isn’t right.”

For example, if someone says, “I can run faster than a train,” the statement would raise a red flag. It would send a message to your brain saying, “That probably isn’t true. People can’t run faster than trains.”

Teachers often raise a red flag when they hear homework excuses that are unbelievable, even wacky. Let’s read the following excuses aloud together:

WACKY HOMEWORK EXCUSES

- A hawk flew off with my homework.
- A hedgehog buried my homework underground.
- My dog ate my homework for breakfast.
- The toilet monster flushed my homework away.
- My homework disappeared during a magic trick.
- The pencil broke and I couldn’t finish.
- My homework grew legs and ran away with the circus.

Do you think any of those excuses is believable? Probably not! What are some other wacky excuses that might raise a red flag?

STEP ONE

For today’s activity, let’s imagine other “over-the-top” excuses that might raise suspicions they are untrue. Everyone will have 3 minutes to think of an excuse that raises a red flag and write it on the worksheet.

Let’s get started!

(Set the timer for 3 minutes.)

My excuse that raises a red flag:

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STEP TWO

When the timer sounds, we’ll share our excuses. If everyone agrees your excuse raises a red flag, you’ll write it on the flag and tape it to the Popsicle stick.

Ta-da! Now, you can raise a red flag!



