

Resources to help children respect and value differences

What makes us different?

Use this great BBC video of young children talking about what makes them different from each other with Y6 and secondary pupils, to start a discussion about how and when we put up barriers based on race, gender, disability <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1MJrRvpjB1I>

You could use a P4C approach where pairs of children discuss the video and come up with suggestions for whole-class discussion.

Or you could try these discussion starters:

- Would these children say the same if they were older- what do you think?
- When do you think we start to think differently?
- What makes that happen?
- Can it be changed or is it just part of us?

There are other great ideas, for secondary pupils, in the free resource 'Agenda' – produced by young people for young people - <http://agenda.wales/>

For KS1 and 2 we've uploaded Hull Museum Service's version of the well-known 'Blue Eyes Brown Eyes' activity. It is very powerful, but needs careful handling. Find it at <http://sealcommunity.org/member-resource/blue-eyes-brown-eyes>

Book-related activities

Wonder by R.J. Palacio, adapted for younger readers as **We are all wonders** and recently turned into a film starring Julia Roberts



'I won't describe what I look like. Whatever you're thinking, it's probably worse'.

August Pullman was born with a facial difference that, up until now, has prevented him from going to a mainstream school. Starting 5th grade at Beecher Prep, he wants nothing more than to be treated as an ordinary kid—but his new classmates can't get past Auggie's extraordinary face. The book begins from Auggie's point of view, but soon switches to include his classmates, his sister, her boyfriend, and others. These perspectives converge in a portrait of one community's struggle with empathy, compassion, and acceptance.

One school started the week with an assembly where children watched a clip from the film, read a short extract and discussed the idea of 'don't judge a book by its cover.'

As the week went by they read the text in full and explored the themes through activities like role play and conscience alley- children formed two lines, one arguing that Auggie shouldn't go to school and one that he should; the teacher then walked down the alley listening to each argument and reaching their own conclusion when they came to the end of the row.

Finally children wrote letters urging Auggie to come to their school, where he could be sure of a warm welcome because everyone is different.

For more ideas, click here <http://sealcommunity.org/member-resource/were-all-wonders-resource-pack-work-valuing-differences> where we have uploaded a great pack of primary teaching resources to support work on the book.

Here are some more good books for work on difference:

- ***Nothing Rhymes with Orange* by Adam Rex** tells the tale of Orange, who always feels left out. His fruit bowl friends find a way to help him fit in even if it means making some adjustments. This is a great read aloud with striking illustrations, celebrating how different we all are and how we can work together to achieve acceptance.
- ***I Have No Secrets* by Penny Joelson** is a well-written thriller told from the unique perspective of a 14 year old girl with cerebral palsy. Jemma is unable to communicate and we see through her eyes the reality of living with disability and the impact on those around her. The great plot and believable characters bring the narrative to life and you will think differently about disability after reading this book.
- ***We Are Giants* by Amber Lee Dodd** is a fantastic story of celebrating love, family and friendship. Relatable characters and a convincing narrative give create a realistic reflection of life and its many trials and tribulations seen through the eyes of 9 year old Sydney, who especially worries about her Mum who has dwarfism. Warm hearted and uplifting this story gives positive messages of self-belief and shows that families come in all shapes and sizes.
- ***Something Else*** by Kathryn Cave and Chris Riddell is a superbly illustrated book for exploring, and celebrating, being different. Tiny Something Else really pulls at heartstrings.
- ***Neon Leon*** by Jane Clarke

Everyone knows that chameleons are the best at fitting in. But Leon is an exception. Leon is neon! In fact, he's so bright that he keeps all the other chameleons awake at night. Poor Leon is lonely, so he goes off in search of somewhere he won't be a nuisance. In this delightful interactive book filled with vibrant neon artwork, children can help Leon on his journey by counting his steps, sending him to sleep, and giving him lots of reassurance when he's feeling down. But will he ever find a place where he can fit in? We follow his search until he finds a place where not only do the flowers all match him, but makes a friend who is a perfect match too



- ***Odd dog out*** by Rob Biddulph

A tale about a sausage dog who is trying to find her place in the world. She finally realises that being who you are is the best way to be. 'So blaze a trail – be who you are'.

Read by Tom Ford for CBeebies at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kUayOnHldv0>

A nice activity is to get the children to design their own 'odd dog'; you'll find a template at sealcommunity.org/member-resource/odd-dog-template