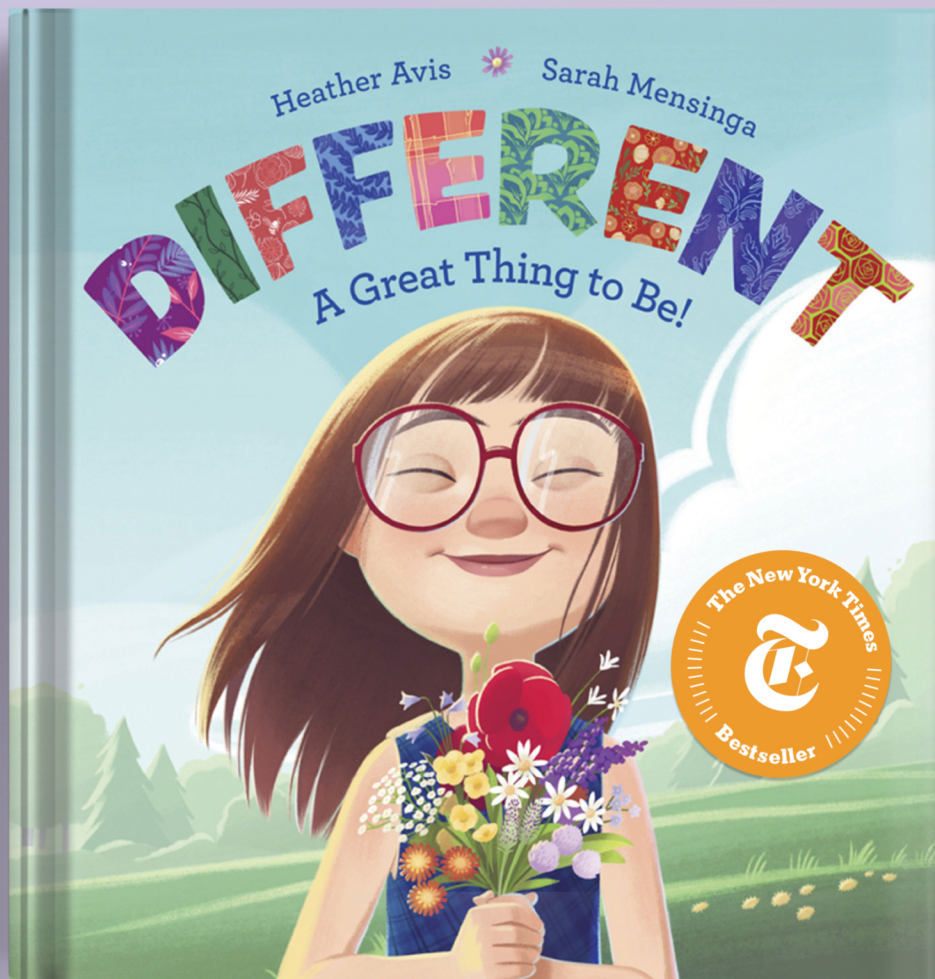


A Different **CLASSROOM**

..... KIT



It is our Different
that makes us great!



Hello educator!

So glad you've downloaded this Different Classroom Kit.

Whether you are a classroom teacher, pastor, parent, therapist or fall into another category we know you are an educator in your own right! There's also a good chance you've already had an opportunity to purchase and read, *Different -- A Great Thing to Be!* Thank you for the support!

When I wrote *Different*, I had hopes and dreams for it to be used in schools and classrooms everywhere as a tool to help guide kids to see, embrace, and celebrate the differences in themselves, as well as others. Our team at The Lucky Few has created these tools and resources to support you in your classroom. This printable "Different Classroom Kit" is full of activities you can do with your students to help them see that Different is a great thing to be!

Included in the kit are:

- A Different Conversation Guide
- A Different Self Portrait (two options)
- A Different Kind of BINGO
- Book Cover Spot the Difference
- Tell Me More About That - Writing Activity
- What I Like About You - Fill in the Blank
- Kindness Cards
- Color it Different Activity

I hope these additional resources support you as you lay a foundation of Different in your classrooms this year.

We'd love to see all the ways in which the book and these resources are used with your students. You can use #differentbringslight and tag @theluckyfewofficial. Can't wait to see you with your students!

Know we are here for you cheering you on this school year. You are doing a great job!

Shouting their worth and shifting the narrative,

Heather

Heather Avis

New York Times Bestselling Author • Narrative Shifter





A DIFFERENT Conversation Guide

Five ways to engage our children in a conversation about embracing and celebrating the “different” in us all.

From Heather Avis, author of the children’s book *Different—A Great Thing to Be!*



1. Lay a foundation of “different” in your home.

It is crucial that conversations around differences are happening in our homes and that the foundations of these conversations are ones of recognizing, embracing, and celebrating. When we teach our kids to recognize, embrace, and celebrate the differences they see in themselves and others from day one of their lives then the narrative around “different” will be positive, helpful, and productive. When this kind of foundation is laid it makes it less awkward to answer the questions our kids WILL ask in public. *The best way to begin to lay this foundation is to introduce your kids to “different” as early as possible. Make sure the movies and shows they watch, the books they read, and the toys they play with represent all kinds of people—including people with disabilities. Then talk about how a character may be different to your child and different to you, always pointing out how these differences are positive, giving us a fuller understanding of our connected humanity and making our lives richer. As the foundation grows, your family will see how different isn’t bad or strange—and the positive foundation around different will grow stronger.*

For example: When our daughter, Truly, was around three years old we passed a man who had a port-wine stain covering about half of his face. In all her three-year-old curiosity she pointed at him and said to me, “Mommy, what’s wrong with his face?” and, because we had been laying a foundation of different in our home, I was able to say to her, “Oh honey, nothing is wrong with him. He’s just different. Remember, all of us are different and it’s awesome.” And that was the end of that. Which leads me to number two . . .

2. Welcome questions.

I remember when Macy was younger, probably around five or six years old, we were in line at a store and behind us was a little girl around the same size as Macy who kept staring at her. When Macy noticed and began to engage her, the little girl looked at her mom and asked, “What’s wrong with her?” To which the mother responded with a “shush” and pulled her daughter away.

True, the question the little girl asked could be seen as rude and inappropriate and there was a better way to ask it, but in reality the situation at hand was more of a “know better, do better” one. When the parent “shushed” and pulled her daughter away from Macy it communicated that something was wrong. When, in fact, *different* is not wrong. A better approach may have been to say, “Oh honey, there is nothing *wrong* with her. It seems there is something different about her just like there are things about you that are different. Why don’t we say hi and ask her her name?” Kids are curious in the best, most innocent ways. Follow their lead and show them that their curiosity is not something to be ashamed of.



3. Say, “Hi! What’s your name?”

Sometimes when someone seems so different to us or people we are familiar with, it can make us feel uncomfortable and this discomfort can be a barrier to building relationships. But everyone has a name and everyone can say “Hi!” in their own ways. Teach your kids and lead by example by approaching people who are different to us and who our kids are curious about with a simple and welcomed question: “Hi! What’s your name?”



4. Believe the best and see differences as opportunities for learning and growth.

When meeting or interacting with a person who you and/or your child might not be familiar with, always assume the best about that person. Believe that they are capable and competent. See them as a person who you have something to learn from and as a person who has so much to offer those around them, including you! When we see the best in people, we treat them the best we know how.

When interacting with someone who seems very different from us, oftentimes our thoughts can be, “There is so much they can learn from me.” This kind of thinking stops us from pursuing relationships in which there is mutual respect and rather sets us up to enter into relationships in which we feel superior to the person who we see as different from us. Instead, approach the differences in those around us as opportunities for us to learn from a person with a different lived experience, allowing us to grow into a better, more accepting human.

5. Notice and celebrate the differences around you.

As we begin to build a foundation of “different” in our homes, we will start to notice opportunities for celebrating differences all around us. Welcome these opportunities as positive opportunities for learning and growth. As you talk about differences with your children, begin pointing out the differences you see not just in people but *all* around you—and how good the world is because of them. Look out the window at the different trees or flowers growing in your backyard and how everything grows better when it grows together. Point out how all the different buildings lining a city street make it more interesting and fun. Another way to notice and celebrate the differences around you is to point out the differences you see in each other. When you’re sitting around the dinner table you can point out how you have straight hair and your daughter has curly hair and how both kinds of hair are great and how thankful you are for your straight hair and how wonderful it is to have a daughter with curly hair and how you can teach each other new things about hair care and styles because of your differences. See how great it is to be different? The more we are able to point out and celebrate differences, the more our kids will begin to shift their feelings about differences from negative to positive.

Some questions to help you start a “Different” conversation at home:

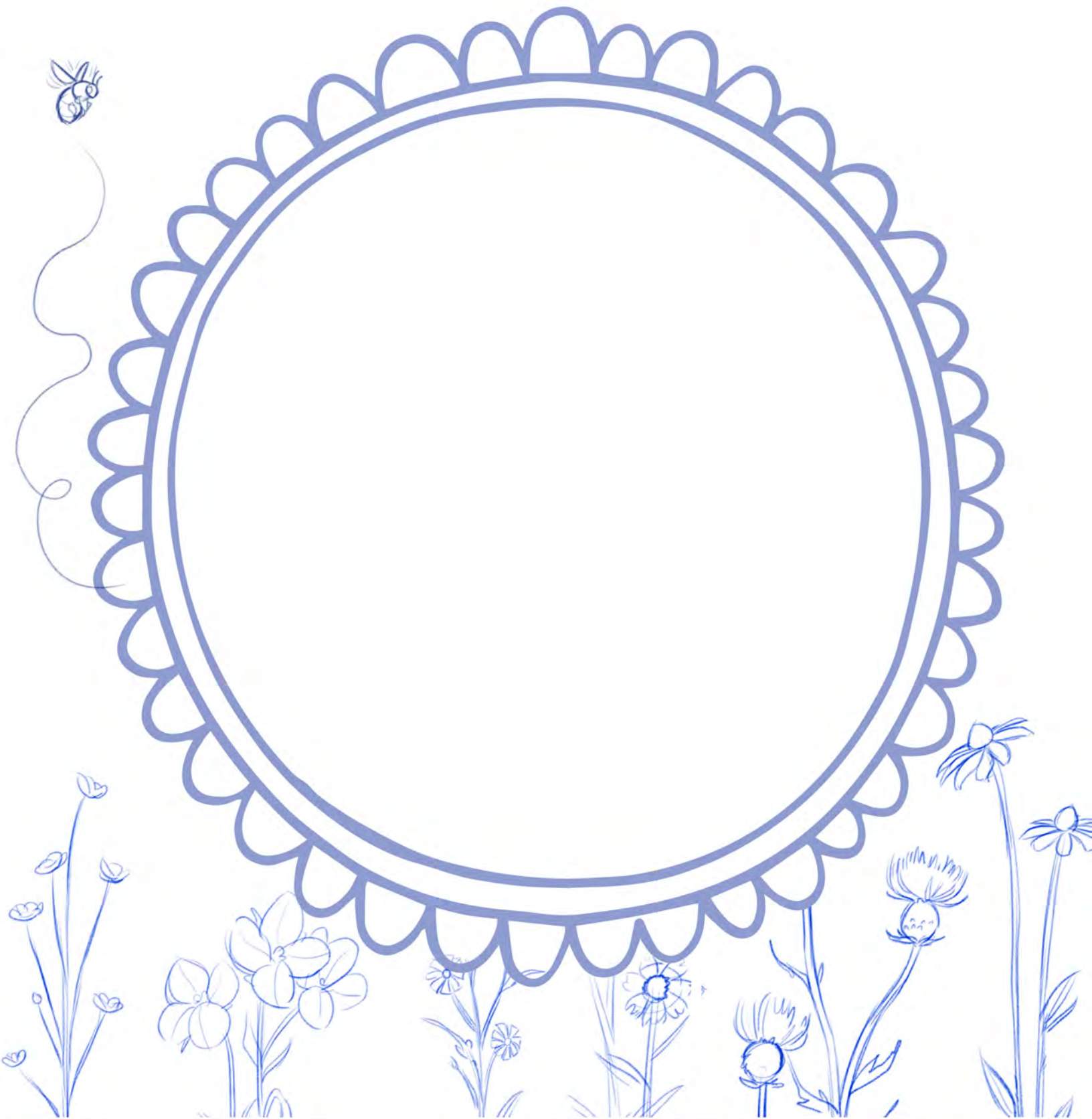
1. What is something about a person who you love (mom, dad, sister, grandma, best friend) that is different from you that you like?
2. What is something about yourself that is different that makes you feel good about yourself?
3. When the “Different” in someone else makes us feel uncomfortable, what can we do to shift the feelings of discomfort into something to embrace and celebrate?

Read *Different—A Great Thing to Be!* and show your kids how it is our differences that make us great!



Self Portrait

Sameness is fine but different brings light! You are the only you there is and that makes you amazing! Use the frame below to create a self portrait. You can use pencils, crayons, markers, paint or anything you'd like. There is no wrong way to be!



WATERBROOK

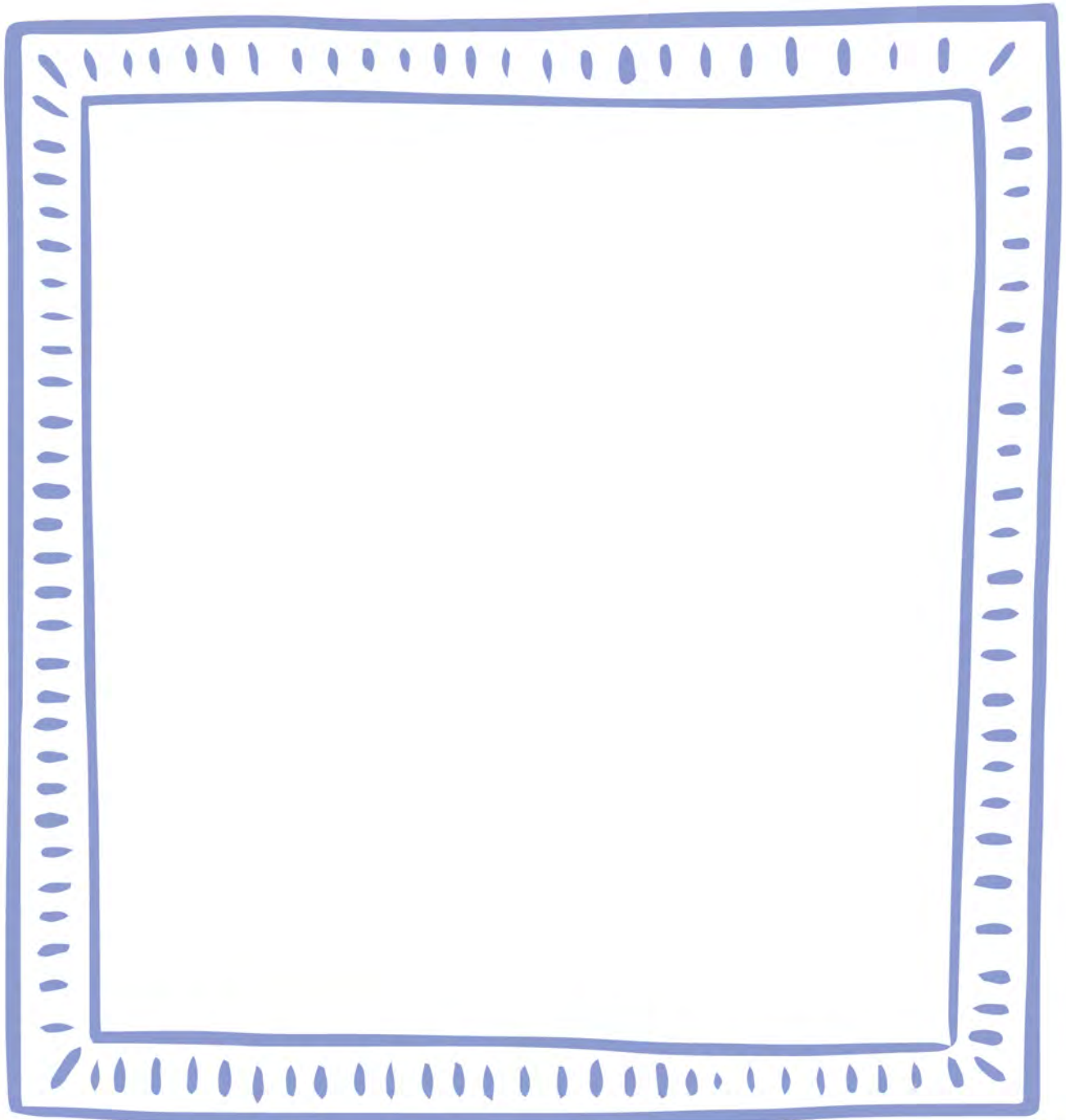


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Learn more at: HeatherAvis.com/Different
#DifferentBringsLight #DifferentBook

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A Different Kind of BINGO

When your teacher gives you the signal, walk around the classroom and celebrate the Different in your classmates and yourself as you fill out your bingo card with classmates who are different from you.

DIFFERENT
HAIR
COLOR

DIFFERENT
EYE
COLOR

DIFFERENT
GENDER

**SPEAKS A
DIFFERENT
LANGUAGE**

DIFFERENT
FAMILY
MAKE-UP

DIFFERENT
FAVORITE
FOOD

DIFFERENT
FAVORITE
ANIMAL

DIFFERENT
FIRST
LETTER OF
YOUR
NAME

DIFFERENT
FAVORITE
SHOW

DIFFERENT
AGE

**LIVE IN A
DIFFERENT
CITY**

**WEARING A
DIFFERENT
SHIRT**



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Spot the Difference!

Instructions: Can you spot the five differences between the two pictures below?



Answer Key: 1) Flower between the author and illustrator is missing
2) F in the title is flipped 3) A bee is flying near Macy.
4) Macy's glasses are purple 5) Yellow flowers in the grass are gone



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[#DifferentBringsLight](https://twitter.com/DifferentBringsLight) [#DifferentBook](https://twitter.com/DifferentBook)



Tell Me More About That!

Sometimes, being different can feel hard instead of celebrated. You're not alone in those feelings! Ask an adult in your life about a time they felt different and it wasn't easy. Interview them and write down their answers and see what you can learn from their experiences.

Lined writing area for student responses





What I Like About YOU!

Directions: Pair up with a classmate and answer the questions below.

I like your hair, it is _____

I like your eyes, they are _____

I like that you are _____

I like your _____

Come up with your own observation.

Word bank with adjectives to help you fill in your answers:

Blue brown green hazel grey black long short

brown blond curly spikey straight wavy

braided smart funny interesting kind friendly happy



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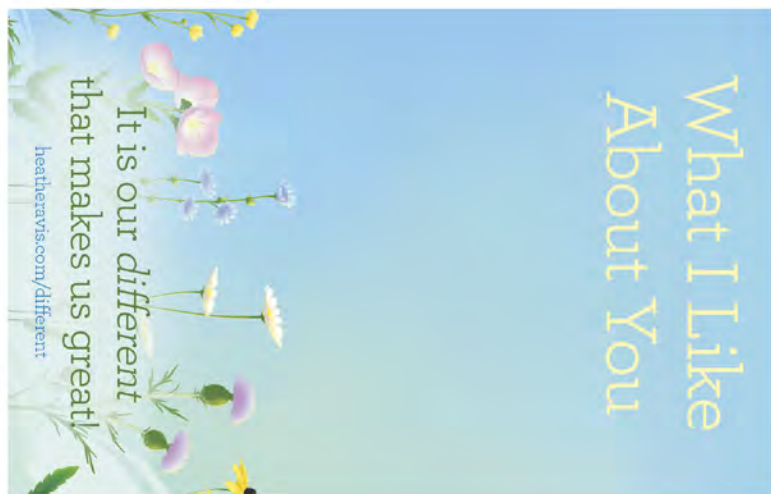


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Kindness Cards

Send someone some light today with a Kindness Car.

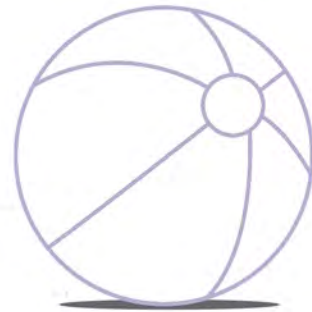
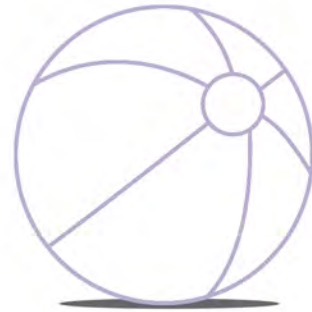
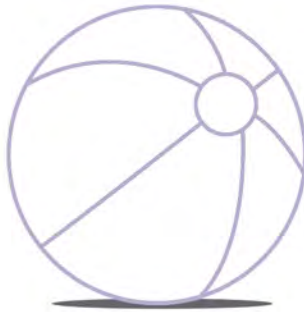
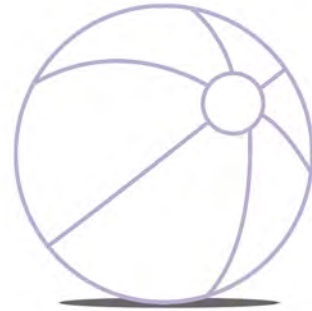
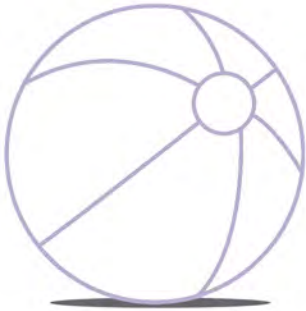


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Color it Different!

Instructions: Color or decorate each of the beach balls below "different." You might use different colors, designs, patterns, or even glitter, stickers, or other craft items. As you make each one different, get creative and see just how great different can be!



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Thank you for downloading this classroom kit
and spreading the message that...

Different brings light!

We'd love to stay connected
@theluckyfewofficial. hello@theluckyfew.com
please tag us #DifferentBringsLight #DifferentBook

**To order a copy of *Different - A Great Thing to Be!*
please visit HeatherAvis.com/different**

