

Journeys in the Spirit



November 2022

Celebrating difference

Unique and amazing

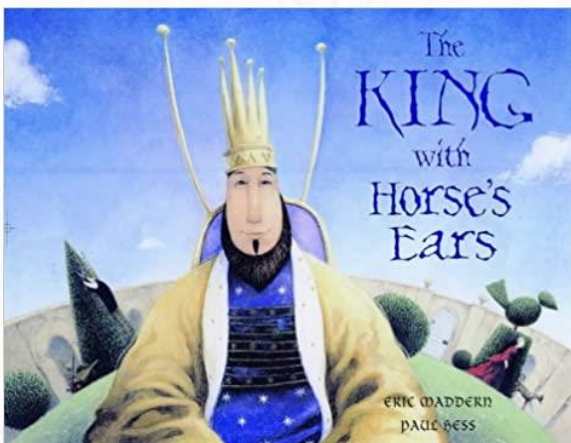
Each one of us is unique and amazing. We look different, sound different and often, think differently. Our communities are richer for the differences we bring. Sometimes our differences can get in the way – or we think they get in the way.

It is not our differences that divide us. It is our inability to **recognize**, accept and celebrate those differences.

Audre Lordes

<https://www.google.com/doodles/audre-lordes-87th-birthday>

Watch or read



The King with Horse's Ears by Eric Maddern

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pEY543-GdNA>

Wondering Questions

Follow with some questions that will help people find their way through the story. There are no right or wrong answers.

I wonder which part of this story is the most important?

I wonder which part you like the best?

I wonder where you are in this story?

I wonder why the King felt he needed to hide his ears?

For more ideas for wondering questions and to read about this method of exploring story go to: <https://www.godlyplayfoundation.org/>

Make

Invite people to make a paper chain decorating each figure differently and then joining them all together. These could be taken home or hung somewhere in the meeting as a welcome banner.

<https://www.firstpalette.com/craft/paper-gingerbread-man-chain.html>



Resources

What resources do you have in the Meeting House? Do they show diversity?

The importance of representation cannot be stressed enough. Books and toys play an important role in shaping children's lives. These stories and characters will affect how children and young people see themselves and the world around them.

<https://www.pbssocal.org/education/book-list-teaching-little-ones-tolerance-understanding>

Play a game

Gather people and play a game to help notice similarities and differences between themselves and others.

Tell the group that they will need to look and listen carefully because at the end of the game they will be sharing something they've learned about someone else.

Start by giving directions that will highlight the similarities and differences of the group, such as: "Everyone whose favorite game is I Spy, stand on one foot." "Everyone who speaks more than one language, jump up and down." "Everyone who likes to eat carrots wave your hands."

After five rounds, have each person share one way in which they are similar or different than someone else.

Talk together about how people can share similar interests and how it can be fun to enjoy the same things as your friends and family, such as favorite foods, animals, and books. Then talk about how it is also great to like different things because our differences make us unique and special.

For more games ideas see:

<https://www.quaker.org.uk/documents/games-supplement-august-2018>

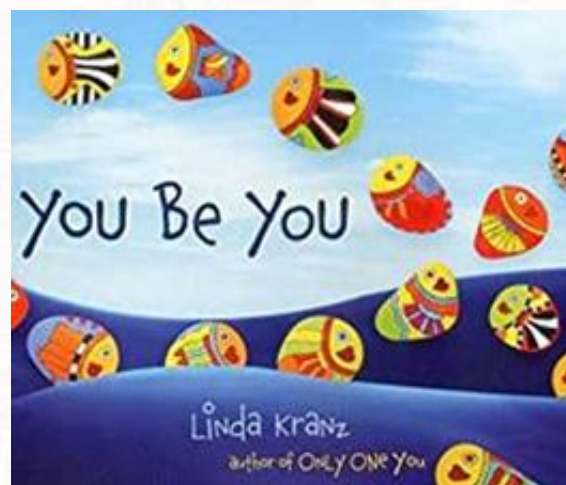
Sing together

Celebration (Kool and The Gang) | Playing For Change | Song Around The World

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8Lu41LuIQos&list=TLPQMjUxMDIwMjKEz573wx1hjQ&index=1>



Further Reading



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bCUmJP750hl>

You be You by Linda Kranz – available from This story can be used for all ages but younger children will especially enjoy the pictures.

Reflect

How do we ensure we are open to the opportunities and challenges of change, for the new ways and energies that families bring?

Query 7 taken from All Are Welcome, Growing our all – age community:

<https://www.quaker.org.uk/children-and-young-people/work-quaker-setting/resources-all-age#heading-1>