

Core Curriculum

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Title of Lesson: Accepting Differences

Domain: Personal/Social

Grade Level: 2 - 5 **Time Required:** 40 minutes

ASCA Mindset(s):

Sense of belonging in the school environment

ASCA Behaviors:

Social Skills

Create positive and supportive relationships with other students

Demonstrate empathy

Essential Question:

How are people different?

How are people the same?

How do we treat everyone with respect and kindness?

Material/Resources:

Two wrapped presents – one with pretty wrapping and an unpleasant gift inside (sticks & rocks, lima beans); one with torn and ugly wrapping with a yummy gift inside (m & m's)

Odd Velvet, by Mary E. Whitcomb

One set of “soul mate” cards

Class set of emoji cards on rings

For the Birds Pixar short (found on youtube)

Activity:

Tell the students that you brought them a present. Show them the pretty one and talk about its appearance. Have students guess what type of gift might be inside. Then, show them the torn up one and talk about its appearance. Have students guess what might be inside.

Let someone choose which present they would want. You can ask the class to vote, or call on a few individual students.

Open the beautiful one first because you know it has something fantastic inside! Discuss the contents and what happened.

Open the ugly one and discuss the contents and what happened.

Ask one student to come to the front of the class. While he closes his eyes, put an M&M in his hand and ask him to put it in his mouth. He has to guess what color it is. Repeat with 2 or 3 other students.

Ask the class why it was hard to determine the color of the M&M.

Discuss the purpose of the two demonstrations (presents and M&M's.)
Explain that today's lesson is on accepting differences and not judging a book by its cover.

Ask the students how people are alike and how they are different.
Watch the Pixar short, For the Birds. (If you students are allowed to have M&M's, you can give them a few during the video clip. You may have to give skittles for those that can't have M&M's.)

Discuss the video

- How did you feel while watching the video?
- What did you see that was not okay?
- Does that ever happen to people?
- How can we make sure that type of behavior doesn't happen at our school?

Explain that we are going to see how we are different and how we are alike.
Give each student a "soul mate" card and an emoji key chain. Have them find their soul mate. Students will stand back-to-back. You will call out a description, the students will pick the appropriate emoji. When you blow the whistle or hit the buzzer, students will spin around and see if their partner is the same or different.
Throughout the activity, you can ask, "Who was the same? Who was different? Is it okay to be different from your partner? Can you still be friends and like each other?"

Describing statements for Thumbs Up/Thumbs Down:

- I have at least one brother
- I have at least one sister
- I am an only child
- I 'm going out of town for Thanksgiving Break
- I wear glasses
- I play a sport
- I have a pet

Describing statements for Emoji Emotions: I would feel...

- If it was time for math
- If it was time for reading
- If we had to take a test
- If I saw a snake
- If I was about to ride a big roller coaster
- If it snowed
- If it rained

Finish the lesson by asking, "What will you do differently to treat everyone with respect and kindness no matter your differences?"

Evaluation:

How did the students respond to their partners?

What was their body language?

What were their comments?