



Activity Packet

A collection of resources aligned to the theme of Diversity



There is natural diversity in every system in the world. From racial differences to differences of opinion to differences occurring in nature, stories about diversity help children understand that diversity is natural, necessary, and beautiful.

This packet includes activities for...

- Educators to use in the classroom
- Parents/caregivers to use at home
- Students to use for their own exploration

Gallery of Differences

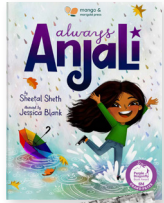
Create a beautiful gallery of your students' artwork representing the ways they are similar and different.

Note: This activity is designed for independent work followed by a whole group experience.

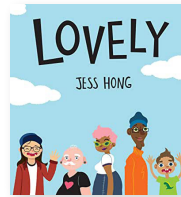
Steps

1. If possible, prior to this activity, read or assign some nonfiction to your students that features information about common activities in different cultures, such as holidays and hobbies. Or read *Same, Same but Different* from RIF's recommended Diversity Book List.
2. Invite your students to pick from a list of three topics that you develop from the reading or think will activate your students' interests (e.g., holidays, hobbies/games, family/traditions).
3. After each student chooses a topic, have them draw a picture that represents how they celebrate/participate in/experience that topic. For instance, the hobbies topic might inspire drawings of gardening, soccer games, and baking.
4. When all the drawings are complete, hang them in topic groupings in a gallery format in your classroom.
5. Encourage students to walk around the gallery and discuss the drawings. Some students might want to talk about their drawings or ask questions about the drawings of their classmates. The gallery experience should be relaxed and open to promote an atmosphere of curiosity and appreciation.
6. Leave the gallery up for as long as you like to highlight the beauty of diversity right in your own classroom.

Recommended Books



Always Anjali
 Author: Sheetal Sheth
 Illustrator: Jessica Blank
 Grades: PK-4



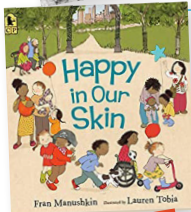
Lovely
 Author & Illustrator: Jess Hong
 Grades: PK-2



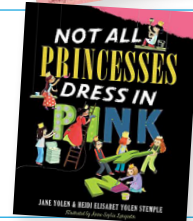
Luci Soars
 Author & Illustrator: Lulu Delacre
 Grades: PK-3



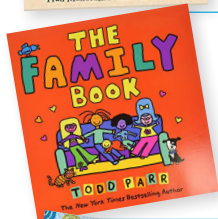
Same, Same but Different
 Author & Illustrator:
 Jenny Sue Kostecki-Shaw
 Grades: PK-2



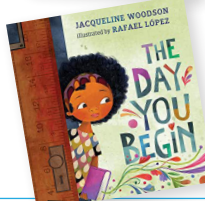
Happy in Our Skin
 Author: Fran Manushkin
 Illustrator: Lauren Tobia
 Grades: PK-K



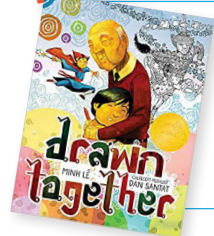
Not All Princesses Dress in Pink
 Authors: Jane Yolen &
 Heidi E.Y. Stemple
 Illustrator: Anne-Sophie Lanquetin
 Grades: PK-3



The Family Book
 Author & Illustrator: Todd Parr
 Grades: PK-1



The Day You Begin
 Author: Jacqueline Woodson
 Illustrator: Rafael López
 Grades: K-3



Drawn Together
 Author: Minh Lê
 Illustrator: Dan Santat
 Grades: PK-2



Can I Touch Your Hair? Poems of Race, Mistakes, and Friendship
 Authors: Irene Latham &
 Charles Waters
 Illustrators: Sean Qualls & Selina Alko
 Grades: 3-6

Discussion questions for any recommended book listed above:

1. Where did you notice diversity in this book?
2. In what ways were the people or things that were diverse/different also alike?
3. Did the diversity/differences in this book make things better or worse?
4. If you had to write a definition of “diversity” for the dictionary, what would you write?
5. How does diversity make your class or school more interesting?

For additional activities for the books listed, please visit www.RIF.org/Literacy-Central/Collections/Diversity

Note to Parents/Caregivers

Our class is learning about diversity with literacy resources from Reading Is Fundamental. Complete this activity with your child to help deepen their understanding of diversity.

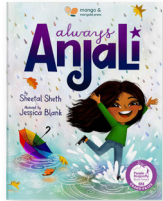
Talk about Differences

Create a family and friends tree (on paper or through discussion) and talk about all the diversity in the people who are important to your child.

Steps

1. Start a discussion with your child about the many people in their life.
2. If you are sketching on paper, create a tree or similar diagram and write in the names of people who are important to you and your child. The people may be family, friends, caregivers, neighbors, etc.
3. Ask your child to identify how the people in the tree are alike and different. There are no right answers. This activity is just designed to acknowledge all the ways important and beloved people can be both the same and different.
4. Invite your child to talk about their own feelings of being different in various groups and environments.
5. Continue to point out differences you see in the people in your lives and in books to keep the conversation about diversity going throughout the year.

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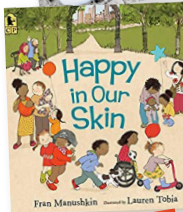
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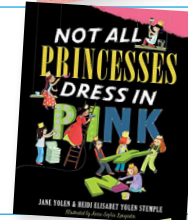
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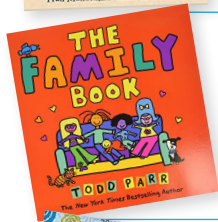
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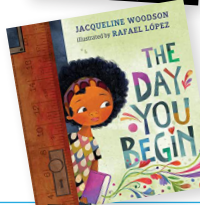
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Stick Figures

Differences can be fascinating and beautiful. Humans have so much in common and, yet, everyone is unique! This activity will challenge your imagination to recognize the many ways we can all be different.

Instructions:

Draw 6 stick figures and attempt to give them all a noticeable difference. Consider things like size, hair, feelings they may be having, clothing choices, and more. Remember, many differences are things you cannot see, so there will be things you can't include in your drawings. Share your drawings with a family member or your teacher and talk about all the interesting ways people may be different.
