

# Same, Same but Different



## A RIF GUIDE FOR COMMUNITY COORDINATORS

**Themes:** Multiculturalism, Indian Culture, Comparisons

**Grade Level:** Pre-K to 2nd grade

**Book Brief:** Two pen pals realize that their lives are more alike than they thought.

**Author/Illustrator:**

Jenny Sue  
Kostecki-Shaw

## TIME TO READ!

**Before reading:** Are any of the children from a different country? Do any of them have relatives who live in a different country? Has anyone taken a trip to a different country? Ask for volunteers to share their experiences. How is life different in those countries? How is it the same?

## RELATED ACTIVITIES

### ELLIOT'S MASK (AGES 4-12)

Materials: paper plates, scissors, glue or tape, feathers or colored paper, string

1. Make a mask like Elliot's peacock mask! Cut a paper plate in half and cut two holes for eyes. (Younger children may need help cutting.)
2. Decorate the mask with markers.
3. Attach feathers to the top of the mask. If you don't have feathers, use colored paper cut to look like feathers.
4. Attach 2 pieces of string to the back of the mask so children can tie it on.



### PALLING AROUND (AGES 4-12)

Have children send cards or letters to US troops around the world. Mark cards with children's first names and your organization's name and send them in one large envelope to:

Operation Gratitude

17330 Victory Blvd., Van Nuys, CA 91406

For specific guidelines, visit:

[www.operationgratitude.com/letters-to-heroes](http://www.operationgratitude.com/letters-to-heroes).

### SECRET SENDER (AGES 7-12)

Materials: paper bags, markers, stickers (optional)

Have children decorate a paper bag to make a "mailbox." Then, have each child write a pen pal letter with a few facts about themselves, their world and their family. Make sure they don't sign their names! While the kids are out of the room, put a letter in each mailbox. After the kids read their mail, let them guess who sent it to them. This activity can be repeated a number of times using different letter themes (Favorite Books, My Family, I like...).

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

### OTHER INTERNATIONAL BOOKS

*One World, One Day*, Barbara Kerley (2009), *Book Fiesta*, Pat Mora (2009), *Throw Your Tooth on the Roof*, Salby Beeler (2001), *Whoever You Are*, Mem Fox (2006).

### TECHNOLOGY LINK FOR KIDS

[www.rif.org/kids](http://www.rif.org/kids)



PROUDLY SPONSORED BY ★macy's  
©2011 Reading Is Fundamental, Inc.

Reading Is  
Fundamental