

Lesson 8: *You Be You*

THEMES: Appreciating Diversity, Believing in Yourself

BOOK: *You Be You* Written and Illustrated by Linda Kranz

MATERIALS:

- **Song:** “Gotta Be Me” by Secret Agent 23 Skidoo
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=28JFuuJXxh4>
- ***Laminated Poster 1:** Include title, author, & Illustrator of book
Vocabulary words: journey, “rap song” and “slang” if you choose to use song:
- ***Laminated Poster 2:** Possible Song: “Gotta Be Me” printed on poster – chorus and/or other lyrics. This is a children’s fun Rap song with slang, but it has a good message.

If you do not want to use the song, you can use these quotes from book:

*“There are so many of us.” Adri said.
“We all have something special that only we can share.”
Papa agreed. “We can learn so much from each other.”
He smiled. There are millions of fish in the deep blue sea.
That’s what makes the world so colorful and beautiful!”
“Life is a grand journey, Adri,” Mama said. “YOU BE YOU”*

- **Pointers**
- **Highlighter tape** (optional)

POSSIBLE LITERACY FOCUS: Sight/rhyming words: me & be, Quotation marks

MATERIALS FOR ART ACTIVITIES:

For a simple, short pre-school activity:

Pre-cut fish shapes(Patterns included below)

Markers or crayons to decorate fishes

Small stickers to decorate fishes (optional)

Small eye stickers (optional)

There are different kinds of art activities that would complement this book. Choose one that would be best for your children or class.

Other possible art activities:

1. Use paints instead of markers. Use pre-cut shapes or let children make their own shapes.
2. Make a mural with all the decorated fish and the quote from book:
“There are so many of us...That’s what makes the world so colorful...”
3. Painting rocks to look like different fish: Best done with acrylics, but may be done with poster paint. It could be an activity for another day, or coordinate with art teacher.

BEFORE READING OF STORY/DISCUSSION:

Show book cover and read title, author's name & illustrator's name.

Ask: *What does the author do? What does the illustrator do? What do you think the subject of this book will be?*

As I am reading the book, think about what the author's purpose in writing the book might be. Will the author be giving us information – facts about different kinds of fish, such as where they live in the ocean, how much they weigh, and what they eat? Does she have a message, or does she just want to entertain us---tell us an interesting story?

READ STORY: Stop at appropriate times and discuss while reading.

AFTER READING OF STORY/DISCUSSION:

Questions you might ask/sample dialogue: *Did you think about what the author's message could be? Is the author trying to tell us something? Why is Ari so excited after his travels? All the diversity he saw. What is the author saying about the diversity in the ocean? The fish not only look different, but they did things differently. If all the fish were all the same, would the ocean be very interesting? Or, beautiful? Adri said that we all have something that only we can share. Did papa agree?*

Is the author just talking about fish? I do not think so. Do any of you remember the book I read called the "The Judgmental Flower" and the song we sang that said, "We are flowers of one garden"? Those authors were saying that we (people) are all like flowers in a garden---different kinds and different colors, and just like the diversity that makes the garden beautiful...the diversity in people makes the world more beautiful. (You might remind children of the word, "simile" that was used in Lesson 2.) The differences in the fish make the ocean beautiful and the differences in people make the world beautiful, as well.*

Was Adri happy to see all the differences in the fish? If you see people/children that look different, talk differently, or walk differently than you---is it ok that they are different? Did Adri make fun of any of the fish because some of them were not colorful, or some of them swam high and some low, or some were quiet and some were loud? Is it ok to make fun of people or children that are different from you? No! How does it make them feel? ...Each one of us is making this world a more interesting place in which we can all learn from each other. We all have something to share. Is it ok if you are different from most around you? Yes, because you help the world to be a more interesting place and you have a lot to share. Wouldn't it be boring if we were all the same? Diversity creates beauty.

*If you previously read, ".The Judgmental Flower"

SONG: “Gotta Be Me” *Let’s look at our song, and see what it says about diversity*

Go over words with Children using a pointer and read the words aloud – once or twice. You may want to point out:

“Gotta” --- short for “got to” ---meaning “have to”

“Whatcha” – what do you.

I would explain that ‘gotta’ and ‘whatcha’ are slang – not standard English and used informally, and that this song is a rap song—a song that is rapidly spoken, instead of sung.

Rap chorus with children. Invite a child to come and point to words as the words are rapped again. Possible literacy focuses: Letter “g”, sight words-rhyming words: “be” & “me”, exclamation points and question marks. Have children come up to song and point or highlight the words, letters, or punctuation marks

Chorus:

So whatcha gotta be? I gotta be me!
Whatcha gotta be? I gotta be me!
Whatcha gotta be? I gotta be me!
I said Whatcha gotta be? I gotta be me!
Come on, Whatcha you gotta be? I gotta be me!
Whatcha gotta be? I gotta be me!
Whatcha gotta be? I gotta be me!
One, two, three

Additional lyrics for good discussion:

“Hey, sometimes when you play at
school, Another kid acts like you’re
not so cool.

They laugh at your clothes and say something mean.
And then your good day feels like a bad dream.

But, hey it happens to everyone.
So, don’t let it stop you from having fun.
You don’t have to be like anyone else.

But, remember that you gotta love
yourself. You see some people think making
you feel bad Will make them feel good.

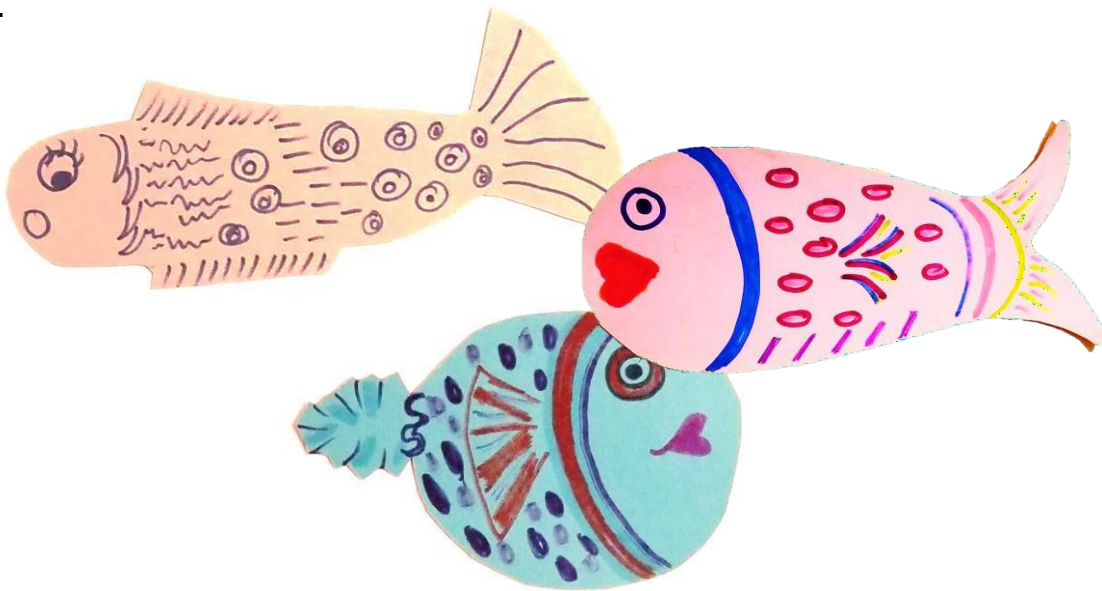
And that’s just sad.”

AFTER READING LYRICS/DISCUSSION: Again, discuss how a person feels when someone makes fun of them. What could they do if they saw a child making fun of another child? Would they say something, ignore it, or walk away? What would be the right thing to do?

AFTER SONG:

Do the art activity. Have children decorate the pre-cut construction paper shapes with markers. Show the illustrations in the book again with all the different shapes and colors. Demonstrate by making some lines and shapes on a pre-cut fish.

Encourage children to use several color markers or to make several different designs or lines. Children can take fish home or teacher can make a bulletin board of the many different fish, with a quote from book.



“Gotta Be Me”

There's a whole lot of people all across the world.
A whole lot of boys! A whole lot of girls!
A whole lot of fathers, and uncles, and brothers!
A whole lot of sisters, and aunts, and mothers!
And whether they're parents or whether they're children,
Every single one of them is a little bit different.
There's only one thing that makes us the same.
We all gotta our own face, and gotta our own name.
We all gotta our own brain, and gotta our own style. “What's style?”
Well, that's just the way that you smile and the way that you walk and the way that you talk,
And the way that you look from your hat to your socks.
It's a beautiful thing. Being yourself!
And not trying to act like everyone else.
I'm gonna tell you the truth and you gotta agree .
I can't be you. Nope I gotta be me,

Chorus:

So whatcha gotta be? I gotta be me!
Whatcha gotta be? I gotta be me!
Whatcha gotta be? I gotta be me!
I said Whatcha gotta be? I gotta be me!
Come on, Whatcha you gotta be? I gotta be me!
Whatcha gotta be? I gotta be me!
Whatcha gotta be? I gotta be me!
One, two, three

Some got mustaches, some got beards.
Some wear big gold earrings in their ears.
And you might think some of them look kinda weird.
But they got to be them, so I'm glad that they're here.
Some wear t-shirts. Some were ties.
Some got big glasses in front of their eyes.
And if you keep looking, then you'll be surprise.
Cause –Man! People come in every shape and size.
As big as a house, or as small as a mouse!
Some are mellow. Some like to scream and shout.
Some come from other countries that you read about.
That's a lot, and I still left some people out.
Some are young like you. Some are old like your grandpa.
Some frown. Some are jolly like Santa.
There's a lot of colors and ways to be.
But I can't be them. No! I gotta be me.

Chorus:

So, what you gotta be? I gotta be me!...
Whatcha gotta be ? I gotta be me
Whatcha gotta be? I gotta be me!
I said, whatcha gotta be? I gotta be me!
Whatcha gotta be? I gotta be me!
Whatcha gotta be? I gotta be me!
Whatcha gotta be? I gotta be me!

All right!

One, two, three

Hey, sometimes when you play at school,

Another kid acts like you're not so cool.

They laugh at your clothes and say something mean.

And then your good day feels like a bad dream.

But, hey it happens to everyone.

So, don't let it stop you from having fun.

You don't have to be like anyone else.

But, remember that you gotta love yourself.

You see some people think making you feel bad will make them feel good.

And that's just sad.

But, no matter what they do or say, it's just a game.

And you don't have to play.

If they call you weird and you want them to stop,

Well, you can either say no I'm not,

Or you can say, "Yep, I am as weird as can be.

And you know what I love it. I gotta be me.

Chorus:

So whatcha gotta be? I gotta be me!
Whatcha gotta be? I gotta be me!
Whatcha gotta be? I gotta be me!
Whatcha gotta be? I gotta be me!
Whatcha gotta be? I gotta be me!
I said, whatcha gotta be? I gotta be me!
Whatcha gotta be? I gotta be me!
Come on! Whatcha gotta be me! I gotta be me!

