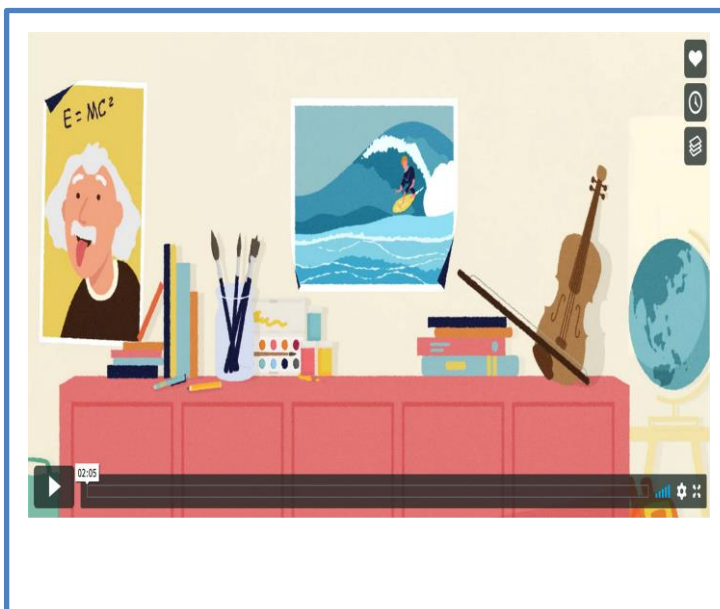


A Different kind of brilliant.

The film taken from the book by the same name.

Available:



Overview

Louise Cummins wrote the book, *A Different Kind of Brilliant*, for her son Lachlan, to help him understand why he was different. Explaining autism in a positive way, this book and now film, have resonated with many parents and children. It is a valuable resource for use in classrooms. Both the book and the film have a place as a classroom resource to support all students and their many differences and individual strengths. These notes refer specifically to the film and have been designed to provide a range of reading and writing activities that respond to and build on the ideas presented in the film.

Grades K-6

Select activities that are appropriate for the students in your class

Big Ideas

We are all different.
We all have personal strengths

Cross Curriculum

Connect these activities with personal and social capability

Critical literacy

English provides students with opportunities to think in ways that are critical and creative using information and ideas and arguments to respond to and compose texts. (NSW English Syllabus K-6, page 28)

These learning activities support the development of critical literacy by exploring:

- Personal opinion
- Point of view
- The author's craft
- The personal and social context of a text

Viewing and Responding

1. Ask students to watch this short film and explain that you will discuss what they have noticed at the end. After viewing write up all student responses on an anchor chart. Accept all responses.
2. Explain some technical terms: animation, narrator, characters. Watch the film again and add additional information to the chart relating to these terms.
3. Ask students if the film raises any questions for them. Record their questions.
4. Explain some more technical terms to the students: music, visual setting, and visual metaphors. Watch the film up to the whirlwind emerging from the house. The animator has used the vines and the whirlwind to create visual images. What is the animator saying about the main character?
5. Continue watching up to where the main character finds people who understand him. What sorts of powers do they have?
6. Continue watching up to the scene with the blackboard and the writing, 'What makes us all different?' Discuss and include in the discussion why the music here is replaced by breathing?
7. Take the class outside and explore the different human senses: sight, hearing, smell, taste and touch. Discuss how an overload of one sense might make you feel.
8. There are some visual references made in the film to real people who had autism. Discuss Albert Einstein and Clay Marzo, a surfer. Both these people had autism.
9. Discuss the sequence of the film. (You could draw up a storyboard to do this – see composing.) Unpack the setting, characters, narrator and events in the film.
10. Discuss the purpose of the film. What is the message of this film that the creators want everyone who views the film to take away?

Composing

1. Write a film review or compose a movie trailer for other classes to read/ view before they see this film.
2. Work with a partner and annotate a story board with the key scenes and music etc.
3. Work with a partner to note everything that you learnt about autism from the film. Add any ways students think they could improve their classroom environment for all students in the class. Build on this idea of meeting diverse needs in the classroom through discussions about different areas of diversity represented in the class, for example hearing or visually impaired students, students in a wheelchair or students learning English.
4. Students discuss a quote from the film, 'All of us have powers. You just have to find what makes you brilliant.' and create a poster advertising their powers.
5. Explore the senses through poetry. Write a list poem starting with I can hear... I can see... I can smell... I can taste... I can touch.... This could be written in different areas of the playground and published in that space.
6. Design a banner that states the key message of this film.

Other texts to read or view:

Books

The black book of colours by Menena Cottin and Rosana Faria.

On a beam of light: A story of Albert Einstein by Jennifer Berne

The sound of silence by Katrina Goldsaito

Films

The short story of a mouse and a fox 3D animated film produced by ESMA