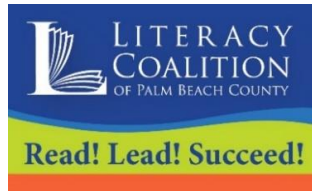


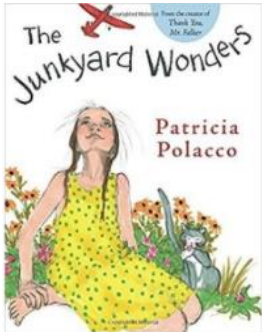
READ and THINK before you ACT.



## *Leading through Reading*

### Being Different is Okay (3-5)

#### READ



At times, we wish that we could be exactly like someone else, but it is our differences that make the world a wonderful place to be.

What if all flowers were identical in every way? What if they were all the same size, same shape, and same color? Would they still be as pretty? If you looked out the window and everything, the birds, bugs, trees, and the sky, were the exact same shade of green, would the view be as beautiful? Aren't differences what make the world so interesting?

Differences make people interesting too. We look different. We have different ideas. We have different talents and opinions. Some of us speak one language and others speak another.

In *Junkyard Wonders* by Patricia Polacco, Mrs. Peterson's class is known as a special ed class. The other children in the school call the students in Mrs. Peterson's class names. They call her class the junkyard because a junkyard is a place for things no one wants. Mrs. Peterson teaches her students that they are not throwaways. She helps her students learn to be proud of who they are. She says, "A junkyard is not a place of throwaways, it is a place of wondrous possibilities." Mrs. Peterson shows them that they have different skills and talents. She helps them to create amazing things together.

#### THINK

If someone is different than you, would you stay away from them or call them names?  
Do you make it easy for others to be themselves? Do you accept people the way they are?  
Do you accept yourself the way that you are?

How are you the same as others? How are you different? Do you have the courage to be yourself wherever you go?

#### ACT



#### **Celebrate What Makes You Who You Are! Celebrate Differences Too!**

Make a list of words to describe your talents, skills, and parts of your personality. These are your traits. Make a [wordle](#) (see example of a wordle to the right). Put your name in the middle. Add the list of your traits to fill in the spaces all around your name.

Others have some of the same traits as you. They also have different traits. Make a second wordle for someone else in your family using their name and traits. Repeat for each family member.

Share your wordles to help you show others that you value them for who they are.

*See Plan 70 for more activity ideas.*

*This at-home educational activity is from the Literacy Coalition of Palm Beach County's literacy-based social emotional learning program.*

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*Sharing is caring! Send us a picture of you and your Read! Lead! Succeed! projects to [nbirardi@literacyabc.org](mailto:nbirardi@literacyabc.org)*