

# Be You!

## Be You!

Written and Illustrated by Peter H. Reynolds

Ages: 4-8; Grades: K-3

Themes: Individuality, Confidence and Self-Esteem, Self Image and Identity

## SUMMARY

Self-expression may not always come easily- but it becomes a whole lot simpler when you commit to just being yourself!

Peter H. Reynolds' *Be You!* is a celebration of self-expression and individuality. With its lively illustrations and inspirational prose, this book inspires its readers to fully embrace and accept their unique selves. While *Be You!* encourages children to foster meaningful connections with friends and family, it is also an adventure in the values of individuality, independence, and self-identity.

## COMMON CORE CONNECTIONS

### CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.L.2.1.E

Use adjectives and adverbs, and choose between them depending on what is to be modified.

### CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.L.2.2

Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English capitalization, punctuation, and spelling when writing.

### CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.2.1

Participate in collaborative conversations with diverse partners about grade 2 topics and texts with peers and adults in small and larger groups.

## OBJECTIVES

- Students will recount key details and ideas from *Be You!*
- Students will use questions/prompts to create zines about themselves
- Students will use adjectives and adverbs when responding to questions/prompts

## MATERIALS

- Easel/whiteboard and markers
- A.V. equipment
- *Be You!* movie
- Adjectives and adverb lists/charts
- Prompt questions
- Blank zines (4 pieces of 8.5" x 11" paper stapled together; 1 booklet per student)
- Pencils, markers, and other writing tools
- Safety scissors (1 pair per student)
- Glue sticks
- Kid-friendly magazines, calendars, and newspapers (or other media that can be cut and pasted)

## BEFORE VIEWING ACTIVITIES

Discuss the themes of individuality, identity, and self-acceptance with the students. During the discussion, write the students' responses on the easel/whiteboard. Guiding questions may include:

- Have you ever heard the word "individuality"? If so, what do you think it means?
- What do you think it means to be an individual? Do you think that you're an individual?
- An "identity" is a set of traits and characteristics that make up an individual. What is one thing that's important to your identity?
- Have you ever heard the word "acceptance"? What is acceptance?
- What do you think it means to show self-acceptance?
- Why might self-acceptance be an important thing to learn about?

After the discussion, tell the students that they will be watching a movie that explores the topics of individuality and self-acceptance.

## AFTER VIEWING ACTIVITIES

Reconvene the class to discuss the movie and check for comprehension. Guiding questions may include:

- How would you describe the movie to a classmate, friend, or family member who didn't see it?
- How did the movie make you feel about yourself?
- If you could "take away" one message from the movie, what would it be?

After discussing the movie, explain that the students will be making a mini book (or zine,) about their own identity. Their zines must include a cover page and three prompts.

Students can choose from any of the following prompts:

1. How would I describe myself to a new friend?
2. What do I like to do when I'm alone?
3. What is the best personality trait that I have?
4. If I had a million dollars, what would I do with the money?
5. What is something that I'm especially good at?
6. What is one thing that I want to learn? Why?
7. If I were a food, what food would I be and why?
8. If I were an animal, what animal would I be and why?

Students must write their responses in full sentences. Each response should include at least one adjective or adverb from the provided list/chart. When they're done writing, students can either illustrate their pages or create some collage art!

Model this process for the students by creating 1-2 demo pages. Then, let the self-expression begin!

## OTHER TITLES BY PETER H. REYNOLDS

*Say Something!*

*The Dot*

*Ish*

*Sky Color*

*The North Star*

*The Word Collector*

To order other Weston Woods titles visit [www.scholastic.com/westonwoods](http://www.scholastic.com/westonwoods) or call 800-243-5020

This guide may be photocopied for free distribution without restriction.