



## Grades: 1 & 2

### ***A New Adventure: See the World Differently***

Hey awesome teachers! I'm Rebecca Wilson Macsovits, a proud Colorado mother of three amazing kids and the author of *Guion The Lion*. My oldest son, Guion, is our very own superhero and he also happens to have Down syndrome. Guion's vibrant spirit and unique perspective inspired me to create the fun world of Guion the Lion. In our book, we've got a special mission: to show readers that embracing differences doesn't have to be tricky at all. Nope, it's as simple as sparking a bit of curiosity and embarking on a new adventure, together. Thank you for helping spread this message throughout your classroom and your community!

#### **Objective**

Students will be able to illustrate a scene through someone else's point of view.

#### **Take Away Concept**

It's ok for people to see and do things differently! Asking questions and being curious helps us learn and enjoy new ideas. If we try, we can see and even feel things from someone else's perspective.

#### **Prep**

- Vocabulary to frontload
  - Different (*Not the same*)
  - Curious (*Excited to learn and ask questions*)
  - Imagination (Your own magical playground inside your head where anything is possible!))
  - Perspective (Point of view)
- Materials
  - ***Guion The Lion Book***
  - **Copies of attached activity template - [What Would Guion See?](#)**
  - Brightly colored crayons, markers, or colored pencils
  - Scissors
  - **Copies of [Guion the Lion Mask](#) template**
  - Glue stick and popsicle stick *or* string

#### **Vocabulary Introduction Option:**

Put each word up on the board or on chart paper.

Ask students to share ideas of what each one means, and add notes/drawings around the word, forming a word bubble!





## Lesson

### 1. Warm Up/Introduction

#### (Activate background knowledge)

- Frontload vocabulary words as outlined above.
- Introduce *Guion The Lion* by doing a picture walk and invite students to make initial observations (*the illustrations are colorful, the lion is visiting a castle, the bushbaby looks sad, etc.*)
  - Pause throughout the picture walk to draw attention to Guion tilting his head and squinting his eyes (*What do you think he's doing? Why?*)
- *Take Away Concept*: Explain that *Guion The Lion* teaches us about exploring new adventures and seeing things differently. If we try to see someone else's perspectives, you never know what surprises you'll find or fun you'll have!

### 2. Discussion Questions

- Read *Guion The Lion* and pause throughout to engage students in higher-level thinking questions. The following are suggestions for discussion or think-pair-shares:
  - Why do you think it's hard for Rae to see what Guion sees?
    - How do you think that makes Guion feel?
  - What did Rae do differently in order to see Guion's perspective? (*Pause on the page where Rae sees the smoke coming out of the mountain top.*)
  - How did Rae's perspective change throughout the book?
  - What does Rae see when she is able to see Guion's perspective?
  - Can you think of a time when you tried to see someone else's perspective?

### 3. Activity

- Today's activity helps students use their imaginations to turn ordinary objects into exciting new things! Students will color the Guion mask and then complete the attached template, [What Would Guion See?](#), by drawing a scene from both Rae's and Guion's perspectives.
  - "Today we are going to try to see ordinary things in our classroom and our school through Rae's eyes and Guion's eyes. This will help us to see the world from their point of view."
  - "When I try to see the world from Rae's perspective, I see the world as it is. For example, when I hold up this pencil, I see a boring pencil!"
- Introduce the [Guion mask](#): Show students the template and show them your example which has already been cut out.
  - Hold the mask up to your forehead. "When I wear my Guion mask, what do you think I see?" (Students may offer answers such as you see color, you see fun things, you see adventures!)
  - "Now let's look at this pencil again. From Rae's perspective, I see a boring pencil. But with my Guion mask I see a slithering snake on the carpet!"





- Ask students for other examples of classroom items or locations that Guion and Rae might see differently. Hold up your Guion mask with each new example.
- Students will return to their desks and cut out and color their Guion mask.
- Next, students will complete the *What Would Guion See?* template.
  - Rae sees the world as it is. On the top, students will draw a scene from school or from home as they imagine Rae would see it. On the bottom, students will redraw that same scene as Guion might see it. Students also have the option to write a sentence(s) to accompany their drawings.
  - Encourage students to hold up their Guion mask as they add color and creativity to the Guion side of the template.
  - Students will express different levels of imagination and creativity and others will take the task more literally - either is okay! We want students to have fun and embrace the concept of curiosity and seeing things differently.
  - Encourage students to find inspiration in the illustrations in *Guion The Lion*.
  - You know your class best! This can be a verbal only, drawing only, or a written activity as well.

#### 4. Review/Reflection

- Bring students back together and invite volunteers to share their creations!
  - How were their images the same?
  - How were they different?
- **Closing Question(s):**
  - Today we read *Guion The Lion* and we saw Guion help Rae open her mind and her curiosity so that she could see things differently!
    - What did it feel like to use your Guion mask and see things from Guion's perspective?
    - Why is it important to be able to see someone else's perspective?
- **Closing Song:**
  - Let's move our bodies and sing along!
  - Guion the Lion Lyrical Music Video [Linked Here](#)

#### Extension Exercise:

1. Tape artwork to the walls and allow time for a gallery walk so that students can see everyone's work.
2. Take students on a school walk wearing their Guion masks! How do ordinary things look different?

