



Grade: Pre-K-2

Celebrate ALL Abilities

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.

We cherish diversity because it adds depth and richness to our world. When we talk about diversity, we embrace everyone, including those who are differently abled. EVERY individual is an essential part of our wonderfully diverse world, and one of our core principles is to treat everyone, regardless of their differences, with kindness and respect. Thank you for helping spread this message throughout your classroom and your community!

Objectives

Students will be able to create a unique hand that represents their hidden abilities.

Take Away Concept

Just like the colors in a rainbow, people are wonderfully diverse. Some people are differently abled, enriching our world with their special perspectives. It's important to be kind and respectful to everyone, including those with their own distinctive ways of seeing and doing things, you never know what you might learn. So, celebrate all abilities, stay curious, and be kind to everyone!

Prep

- Vocabulary to frontload
 - Same (*Alike*)
 - Different (*Not The same*)
 - Differently abled (*Having your very own special abilities and ways of doing things*)
 - Hidden Abilities (*Your superpowers! Special things about you that we might not see right away*)

Materials

- ***Guion The Lion Book***
- Copies of attached [Hand Template](#)
- Brightly colored crayons, markers, or colored pencils
- Optional: Other materials including magazines, pom poms, feathers, and other art supplies
- Optional: [Guion's Mane of Abilities](#)





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.*)
- Take Away Concept: *Guion The Lion* encourages us to go on exciting adventures and embrace different ways of seeing and doing things, just like Guion and Rae. All individuals approach things differently, enriching our world with a wonderful diversity of thought and action. Just like Guion and Rae, we have lots of special superpowers too!

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?
 - When Guion and Rae see the same thing differently, does it make one of them wrong? Why or why not? 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.*)
 - Guion and Rae learn to appreciate each other's point of view. Why is it important to understand how others see the world?
 - What is a hidden ability that Guion has as the story unfolds?

3. Activity

- "Remember we discussed earlier about embracing diversity, including those who are differently abled? Just like Guion and Rae, we are going to create something beautiful that represents our unique abilities and perspectives. And we're going to do it using something that is unique to each and every one of us - our hands!"
- **Hidden Abilities Hand Activity:**
 - "Earlier we talked about hidden abilities, or super powers. One of my hidden abilities is playing the guitar! I love music and I love playing the guitar, but you wouldn't know that just from looking at me."

Tips for Teaching about Being Differently Abled

- **Celebrate Diversity** Let's show our little explorers that being differently abled is just another way people are unique, like the colors in a rainbow!
- **Curiosity is Cool:** Encourage your students to ask questions. Curiosity helps us learn and understand better.
- **Kindness Counts:** Remind your class that everyone, no matter how they are different, deserves kindness and respect. It's like spreading magic smiles all around!
- **Focus on Strengths:** Talk about the amazing abilities and strengths of individuals. Everyone has their own unique powers!
- **Language Matters:** Teach children to use inclusive language, also called "person-first" language. For example, "a person with Down syndrome" instead of "a Down syndrome person." This way, we see the person first.
- **Find Common Ground:** Help kids see that we all have lots in common, no matter our differences. We can share interests, hobbies, and feelings, making new friends along the way!

Examples of Hidden Abilities

- Super star dog walker
- Help around the house
- Guitar player
- Awesome big sister
- Great listener
- Kind friend





- Invite students to provide examples of their hidden abilities or superpowers *or* Divide the class into small teams or partners to brainstorm and discuss hidden abilities (encourage them to think about things they like to do)
- Have students trace and cut out their hand *or* provide each student with the [Hand Template](#)
- Provide students with a variety of materials to showcase their unique hidden abilities
- 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 their hidden abilities.

4. Review/Reflection

- Bring students back together and invite volunteers to share their creations and more about their hidden abilities!
 - *Option 1: Invite students to share their hand creations with their small groups or with the whole class. And/or*
 - *Option 2: Tape each hand to the wall and allow time for a gallery walk so that students can see everyone's work.*

Extension Option:

Guion's Mane of Abilities

Once the kids have designed their hands, you can take each small group or the whole class and glue them around the included "Guion" face.

- **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 the world differently! Throughout the story, we saw Guion and Rae use their hidden abilities.
 - What was one example of a secret super power Guion has? What about Rae?
 - What was an example of a hidden ability that someone in our class shared that you didn't know about before?
 - What are some ways we can continue to celebrate diversity and kindness in our classroom?
 - What are some ways we can celebrate diversity and hidden abilities at home?

- **Closing Song:**

- Let's move our bodies and sing along!
- Guion the Lion Lyrical Music Video [Linked Here](#)

Let's make learning about being differently abled a fun adventure for our little learners! 🌈

