



Grade: Pre-K

A New Adventure: Seeing 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* book. My oldest son, Guion, is our very own superhero - 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 me spread this message throughout your classroom and your community!

Objective

Students will be able to use their imaginations to change an ordinary object into something new.

Take Away Concept

It's ok for people to see and do things differently! Asking questions and being curious helps us explore new ideas and enjoy them.

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!)
- Materials
 - *Guion The Lion* Book
 - Copies of attached activity template, [What Would Guion See?](#) (click to access)
 - Brightly colored crayons, markers, or colored pencils
 - Optional: Copies of [Guion The Lion Mask Template](#) (click to access)
 - Optional: Glue stick and popsicle stick *or* string (for mask extension)





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 that being curious and seeing things in new ways can be fun.

2. Discussion Questions

- Read *Guion The Lion* and pause throughout to engage students in higher-level thinking questions. The following are suggestions for class discussion or think-pair-shares:
 - What do you think makes it tricky for Rae to see things like Guion does?
 - How do you think that makes Guion feel?
 - What were some fun and exciting things that Rae discovered when she began to get curious?

3. Activity

- Today's activity helps students use their imaginations to turn ordinary objects into exciting new things! Students will color the Guion mask (optional) first and then complete the attached template, *What Would Guion See?*
- On the left side of the template, students will see something as Rae would see it. On the right side of the template, students will tilt their heads and squint their eyes, and draw what they think Guion would see.
- Reference the activity template and share the example with students.
 - "Just like in the book, Rae sees the common items on the left. If you squint your eyes and tilt your head, what do you think Guion sees?"
 - *Ex - This snacking giraffe might look like a fire breathing dragon to Guion!*
- Show students the objects that they will complete. Allow for brainstorming in partners or as a group.
 - What might Guion see when he looks at this vacuum? (ex - an elephant with a long nose)

Fun extension activity:

Have students color in their Guion masks and hold them up when using their imaginations to complete the right 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! Encourage students to focus on similarities and differences between everyone's creations.
- 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 are you curious about?
 - How can you help your friends and families get curious?
- Closing Song:
 - Let's move our bodies and sing along!
 - *Guion the Lion* Lyrical Music Video [Linked Here](#)

Optional extension activity:

Tape artwork to the walls and allow time for a gallery walk so that students can see everyone's work.

