

WHOEVER YOU ARE

By Mem Fox

This story celebrates those external and internal qualities that make us different and the same. This is seen through the book's vivid illustrations of children all over the world who exhibit different customs, languages, food, homes and schools. The story reaffirms the idea that even though we may appear different we share a common bond of joy and pain.



WITS Connection: Talk it out

Questions and Activities



PRE-READING ACTIVITIES

This book is an appropriate extension or summary to a curricular unit that celebrates our unique characteristics. After students have explored their own personal qualities they may compare and contrast those qualities of their peers as well as the children described in this book.

Before reading the book to your students present each page of the book and cover the words so that they may only view the pictures. While viewing just the pictures ask students to describe those things in each page that seem to be familiar and different. Prompt students to identify similarities and differences in appearance, homes, transportation, schools, pets, animals, food, and clothing. While looking for those things that are the same and different write those things on a Same Different Chart or print the *Same and Different* handout for students.

After identifying those things that are the same and different begin to read the story and ask that students check to see whether the things that they identified as the same and different are also described by the text in the book.



PRE-READING QUESTIONS

1. Take a close look at the cover of the book
 - a. What do they see?
 - b. What are the people doing?
 - c. Where are they?
 - d. What appears to be with the people on the cover of the book?
2. What do you think the story is about?



POST-READING QUESTIONS

1. If you completed the pre-reading activity with your students review with them those characteristics and qualities that are different and those that are the same.
2. What words does the author keep repeating? Why does she repeat those words? *"Whoever they are, wherever they are, all over the world." Similarities and differences are shared by people all over the world.*
3. What are things that make you special and different?
4. How do our differences make us happy?

5. How do our differences make us sad? *Sometimes differences create conflict.*
What can we do when our differences make us sad? *We can talk it out so that we do not feel alone or left out.*
6. What are things that may make you smile, laugh, and cause you pain? Do you think those may be the same for other people, "whoever they are, wherever they are, all over the world?"



POST-READING ACTIVITIES

- Play the video, *Whoever You Are*, created and performed by the Grade 2/3 Class of Windang Public School.
<http://www.literacyandnumeracy.gov.au/video/whoever-you-are>
- Ask students to describe those things that are different and the same about the children they know in the class. They may wish to interview one another with questions such as:
 - What games do you like to play?
 - What food do you like to eat?
 - What animals do you like?
 - What music do you like to listen to?
 - What places do you like to visit?

Record their answers on chart paper. Are there any matches with what is different and the same how the children are described in the book?

- Stretch a Sketch
Distribute the *Stretch a Sketch* handout. Ask students to draw and colour what they think is the most important message or information in the book.
- Global Venn Diagram
Distribute the *Global Venn Diagram* to students. Ask students to write those things that make us unique or different in the outside parts of the circles and in the middle portion of the diagram ask students to write similarities that they share.
- Make a Venn Diagram collage
Distribute magazines, pictures, scissors and colouring tools. Ask students to paste images in the areas of the outside parts of the diagram that show our differences and paste images in the center of the diagram that represent our similarities.

WHOEVER YOU ARE: Same and Different

Names _____

In what ways are we similar?
How are we different?

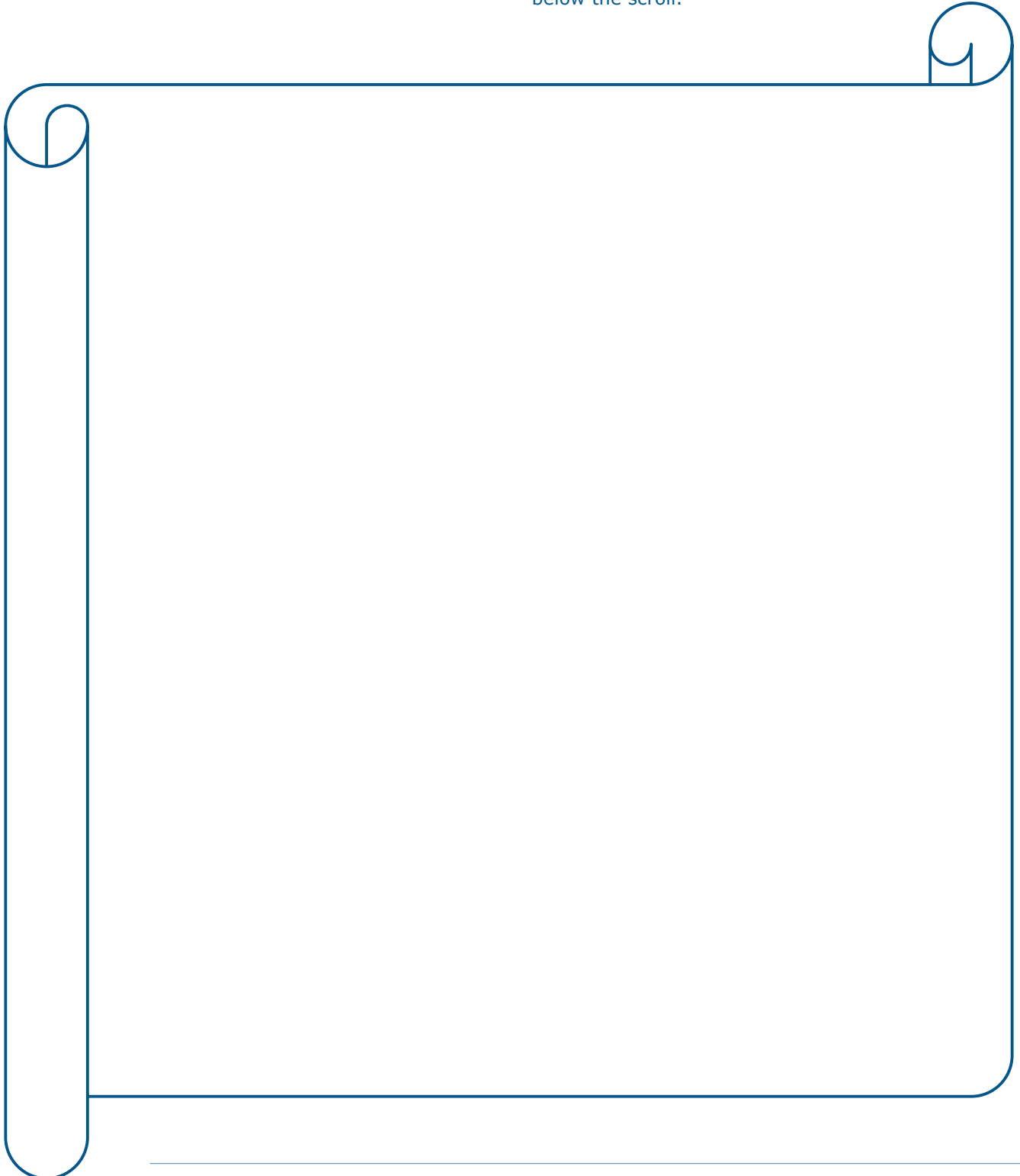
Write the differences on the lines within the stars around the globe. Write ways in which we share similarities inside the globe. Think of similarities and differences such as our appearance, joys, homes, hurts, transportation, schools, pets, animals, food, and clothing.



WHOEVER YOU ARE: Stretch a Sketch

Name _____

What is the most important message in the book? Draw and colour your ideas on the scroll below. Describe your drawing in the sentence below the scroll.



WHOEVER YOU ARE: Global Venn Diagram

Names _____

Describe things that make us unique or different in the outside parts of the globe. In the center shared by both globes describe the similarities that we share.

