

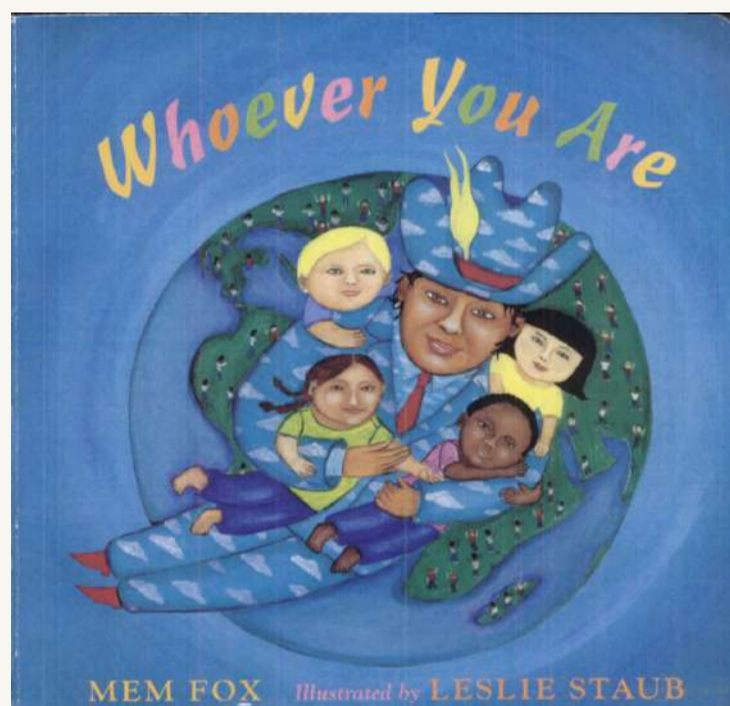
imagine if

10 Great Books That Celebrate Everyone's You-niqueness

At Imagine If, we know how important it is to teach our learners about all kinds of differences – not only the visual differences that we live every day, but also cultural or racial differences, religious differences, and various challenges – so that they can relate to, be comfortable with, and celebrate what makes everyone you-nique. It is an important objective at Imagine If to create awareness about this important concept amongst our learners and their families so inclusivity can be practised wholeheartedly in our future. This vision of an inclusive future starts with all of us: **Neurodiversity**.

We've been reading various books relating to celebrating uniqueness for years now, and from those we've found through researching, at the library and at the bookstore, here are our favourites:

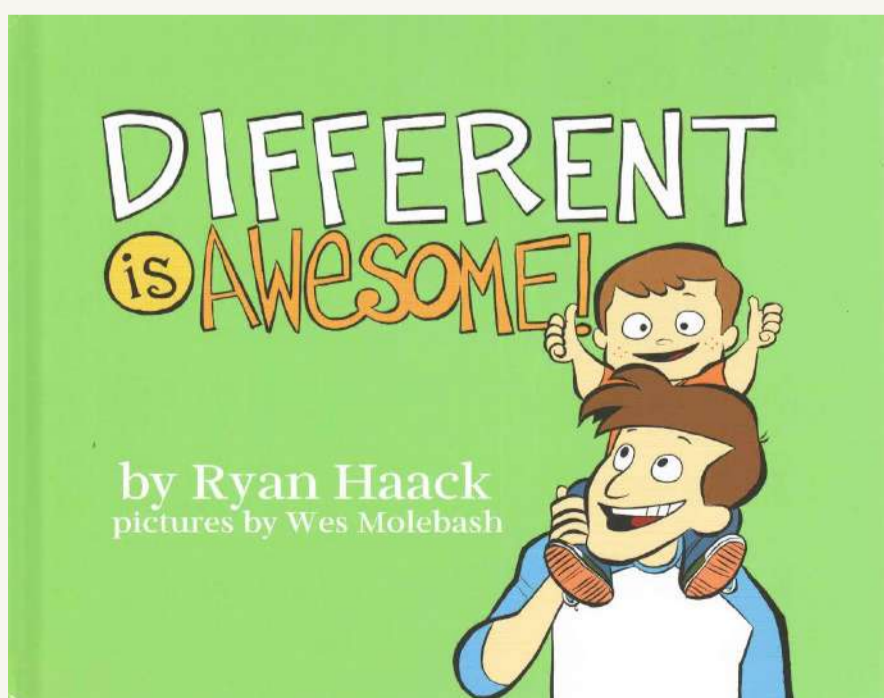
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Whoever You Are by Mem Fox

Oh, how we love this book! We love it so much that we bought it for our own collection. It has a wonderful message for children about how even though everyone is different in their looks, beliefs, cultures, etc., we are so similar because we all experience joy, laughs, and love. Not only a must-read, but a must-have!

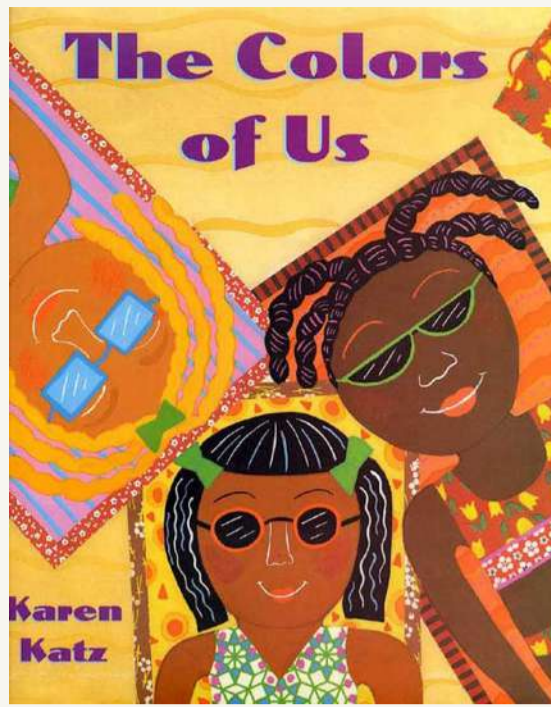
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Different is Awesome by Ryan Haack

Hands down, our kids' favourite book on this list! Ryan wrote this story about himself to help teach children that even though he was born with his left hand missing, he can still do just about anything everyone else can do too – he just may do it a little bit differently. But in his book, he helps readers to realise that we're all different from each other, and being different is awesome!

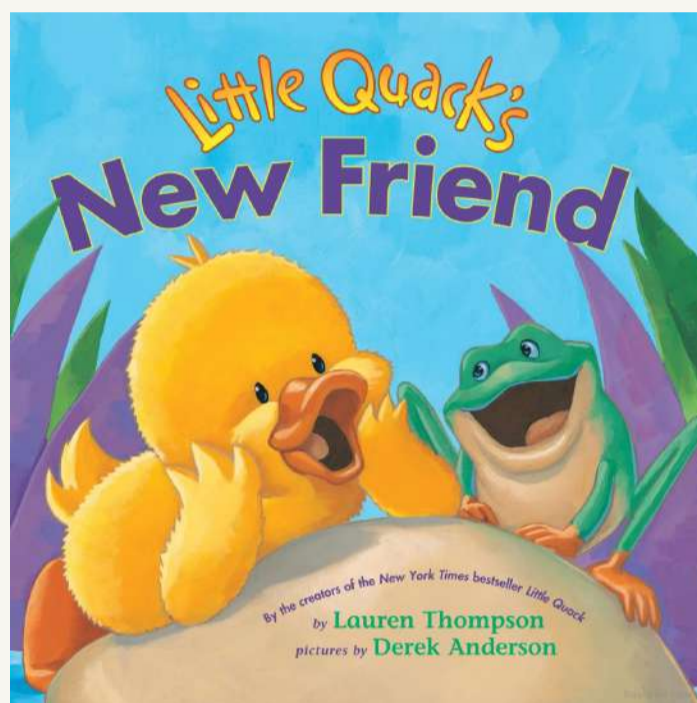
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The Colours of Us by Karen Katz

Another book that is just beautiful and made me get a little choked up. A mother points out to her little girl how many different shades of brown there are while she is painting herself, and the girl then notices how beautiful and unique everyone's skin color is, comparing them all to foods like cinnamon, chocolate, and peaches. Our Imagine If learners really related to the little girl mixing different paint colours, because they love to paint, and we then talked about how everyone in our beautiful Imagine If community has different colours of skin!

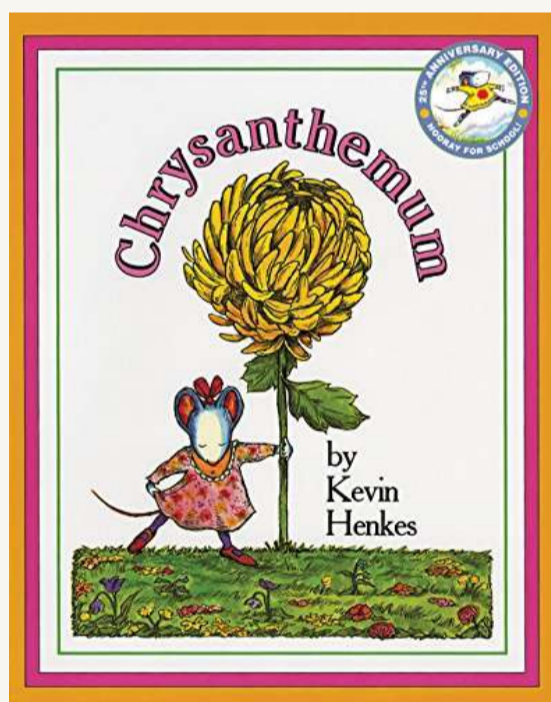
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Little Quack's New Friend by Lauren Thompson

This has been on our Imagine If bookshelf for years, and is an old favourite. At first, a group of sibling ducks were hesitant to play with a frog because he is so different. But they soon discover that they all have fun together, and that's what really matters. Such a simple but important thing to know.

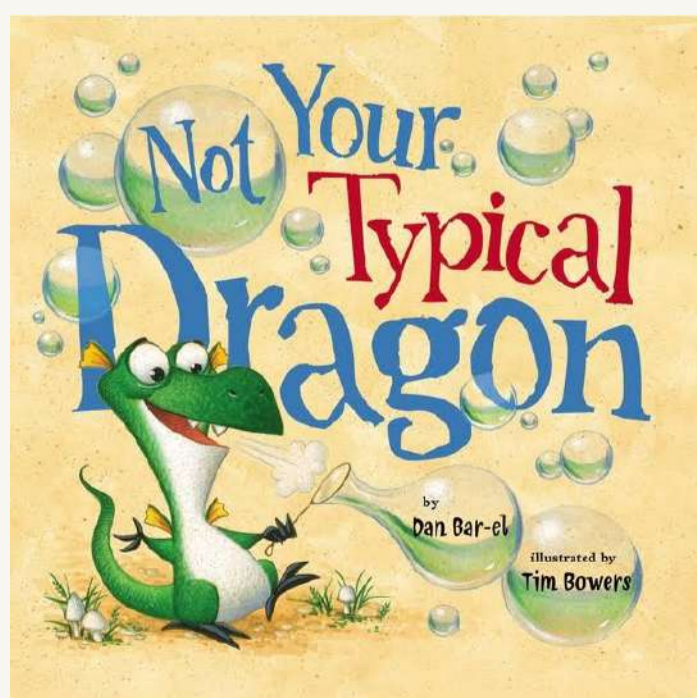
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Chrysanthemum by Kevin Henkes

We recently got this from the National Library, and the children learned a lot from it. It tells the story of a mouse named Chrysanthemum who loves her unique name... until her classmates begin to make fun of it. In the end, we saw how she learns to love her name again.

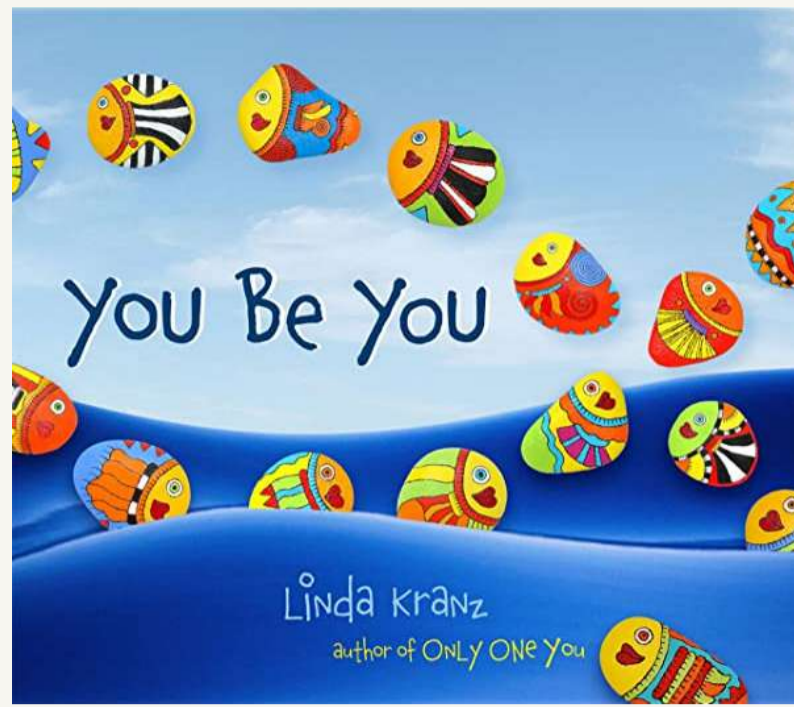
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Not Your Typical Dragon by Dan Bar-el

We all immediately took to this book. Not only is the story really cute and kind of silly with lovable characters, but the ending was so perfect. In the book, the little dragon discovers he can't breathe fire like all the other dragons, though he can breathe bubbles and other silly things. At first, he and his family were embarrassed, but in the end, they all realised how special he really is.

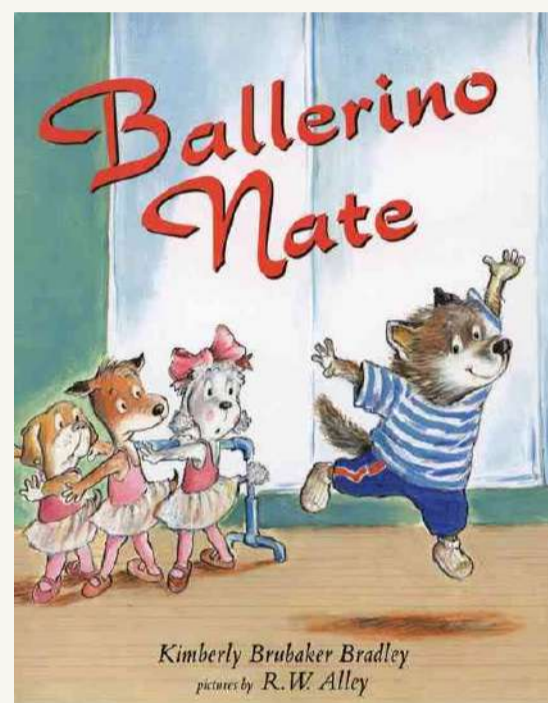
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You Be You by Linda Krantz

We've all heard this great advice – and this book just brings it home. While out swimming one day, a little fish realises how different all of the fishes are and how those differences make the world a much more beautiful place!

8



Ballerino Nate by Kimberly Bradley

This book is a must-have. It's a fantastic book with a fantastic message, and it opened up a lot of good opportunities for us to point out to our Imagine If kids that boys and girls are all interested in different activities – and that's a good thing. In the book, Nate wants to dance ballet, because he likes it, but his brother makes fun of him. In the end, he feels confident enough in himself to keep doing what he loves.

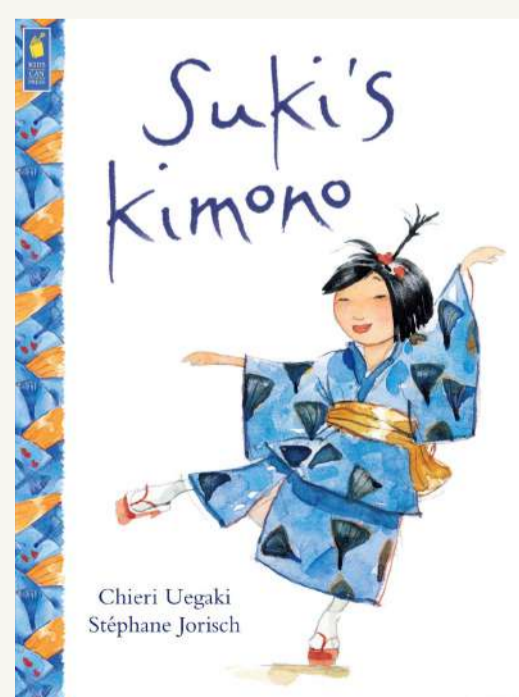
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Exclamation Mark by Amy Krouse Rosenthal

This is a very simple story with an awesome message about an exclamation mark who tries to fit in with his full-stop (period) friends, but realises he was made to stand out. It's a little silly too, and our Imagine If learners had a ball with it while learning some important punctuation!

10



Suki's Kimono by Chieri Uegaki

This is a very sweet story about a little girl who wants to wear her kimono to the first day of school because she is so proud of her heritage. Her sisters are embarrassed by this, but in the end, Suki has pride and confidence in who she is and what she likes, and all of the children in her class really appreciate her unique wardrobe.