

# Learning about similarities and differences through a picture book

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## 1. Overview and Objectives

### Activity Overview

Authentic children's picture books can be used to introduce students to an L2 and foster intercultural awareness. This series of activities is aimed at lower to mid primary students who have learnt parts of the body and colors already.

### Learning Objectives

General Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To raise awareness of our similarities and differences / diversity in terms of physical features</li> </ul>
Specific Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To become (more) aware of similarities.</li> <li>To compare, contrast and accept different physical features.</li> <li>To understand that, while people may look different in terms of hair and eye color, shape of nose etc., we are all simply people (Note: animals and characters also featured in the book)</li> </ul>

Keywords	Intercultural awareness, surface culture, young learners, lower to mid elementary school children
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### 3. Activity Context

This book is a good fit for Year 3 or 4 students in mainstream classes, but may also be used for younger learners in other teaching contexts .

#### Students

Number of students	1 Min.      40 Max.
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Do students need to use a second language?	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No
What is the second language?	English
Level(s) in target language:*	<p>√ <b>Elementary school or younger</b></p> <p>Beginner   CEFR A1   IELTS 1.0-2.0   TOEIC 120-220</p> <p>Pre-intermediate   CEFR A2   IELTS 2.5-3.0   TOEIC 225-500</p> <p>Intermediate   CEFR B1   IELTS 3.5-4.5   TOEIC 500-700</p> <p>Advanced-Intermediate   CEFR B2/C1   IELTS 5.0-6.5   TOEIC 700-900</p> <p>Advanced   CEFR C1 / C2   IELTS 7.0 +   TOEIC 900+</p>
<p>* These levels are approximations; use your judgement</p> <p>* For activities related to English, please try to allocate the minimum level within the continuum on the right.</p> <p>* See appendix at the end of this document for reference about these mastery levels.</p>	

### 4. Activity Materials & Prep

#### Activity Duration

Total duration in minutes:	30
How many sessions?	4-5
Any homework?	No

## Materials

Material # 1 Title:	Bobbi Kates We're different, We're the same (Hardcover or Kindle)
Material Type:	Children's Picture Book
Material Access:	<a href="https://www.amazon.co.jp/-/en/Bobbi-Kates/dp/0679832270/ref=sr_1_1?dchild=1&amp;keywords=we+are+different+we+are+the+same&amp;qid=1613985328&amp;s=english-books&amp;sr=1-1">https://www.amazon.co.jp/-/en/Bobbi-Kates/dp/0679832270/ref=sr_1_1?dchild=1&amp;keywords=we+are+different+we+are+the+same&amp;qid=1613985328&amp;s=english-books&amp;sr=1-1</a>

Material #2 Title:	Color-in handout
Material Type:	Printed handout
Material Access:	<a href="https://drive.google.com/file/d/1jgZUF78d5pYx0aZZEnBHZXxZqkYiDdHA/view?usp=sharing">https://drive.google.com/file/d/1jgZUF78d5pYx0aZZEnBHZXxZqkYiDdHA/view?usp=sharing</a>

Material #3 Title:	Children's soft toys / dolls
Material Type:	Prop
Material Access:	Can be bought or sourced locally

Material #4 Title:	Read along (YouTube) example
Material Type:	Youtube video
Material Access:	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hUrjb4SZnxg">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hUrjb4SZnxg</a>

Material #4 Title:	Read along (YouTube) example
Material Type:	YouTube video
Material Access:	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hUrjb4SZnxg">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hUrjb4SZnxg</a>

Material #5 Title:	Head shoulders knees and toes song CD or You Tube
Material Type:	YouTube video
Material Access:	There are many versions of this song in commercially available children's CDs and in YouTube. For example, here is one version: <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RuqvGiZi0qg">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RuqvGiZi0qg</a>

### Set-Up Instructions

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Purchase picture book.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prepare props and handouts.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If using URL links put them on a word file for easy access during class.</li> </ul>
Estimated Set Up Time (min.): 60

## 5. Activity Description

Suggested Time	Activity Instructions
5m	Class warm-up song: Head shoulders knees and toes (Material 5)
5-10m	Show the students the book cover. What can they see? Elicit answers (Material 1)
15-30m	Go through the first three features: nose, hair and mouth. Elicit descriptions from the students. Get them to touch their nose, hair, mouth and ask them to look around class to see similarities and differences. Discuss the features and functions of these three (Use many gestures/ Japanese as needed)
	Repeat step above 2nd session: Skin, eyes, and bodies 3rd session: Feelings
30m	Students color in prints and describe their creations in pairs or groups Students can also use soft toys, etc. to give descriptions of body parts similar to the book. E.g. Elephant: big grey ears, Pig: small pink ears

## 6. Additional Information

### Tips during the activity:

Make the picture book part as interactive as possible. It will take a couple of sessions to get through the book. The reading of the book needs to be broken up with worksheets and props and small tasks to keep student interested.

### Post-activity suggestions:

The students could also make a collage using photos of their own body parts, as in the book, to draw attention to similarities and differences. This could also be extended to the other classes in the year level or the school community for a larger school project.

### Additional application scenarios:

This picture book is a simple start to foster intercultural awareness and could be used as a stepping stone for other picture books with an intercultural awareness or global citizen theme/ SDG theme, including books like Here we are, Notes for living on Planet Earth, Outside my Window or The Island.