



# Same, but little bit diff'rent



## Teachers' notes

### A Note from the Author

In 2008 I spent a year working in an Indigenous Art centre in Arnhem Land. I had gone from working in an inner city gallery to being immersed in a different culture and way of life. I was completely out of my comfort zone.

The community was very generous in sharing and explaining their culture to me and when trying to explain something new to me the phrase 'Same, but little bit diff'rent' was often used. For example when trying a new food (such as turtle) they would say 'Same like chicken, but little bit diff'rent'.

While reflecting on my experiences in the community it was this phrase that I latched on to. We are all the same, but little bit diff'rent.

When it came to illustrating the book my first thought went to colour (as it often does). I was comparing two different parts of Australia and needed to differentiate between them in the illustrations, but have them work together as a book.

Bizarrely, I was inspired by a set of 1950s ceramic bowls (used to serve nibbles at parties). The colours, which ranged from grey, green and acid yellow to blue and orange, all worked in perfect harmony.

Throughout the book when talking about the city I have used mainly blues, and then greens and earth colours to represent the country. Spots of red and orange help link the two components.

Written and illustrated by Kylie Dunstan  
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### Before Reading

Why do you think 'diff'rent' in the title is spelt the way it is?  
What does the title tell you about the story?

What does the front cover illustration suggest to you about the relationship between the two children?

### After Reading

What does the title page illustration suggest to you about the two characters?

Where does Normie live, and where does the little girl live?

Describe Normie's home and activities.

Describe the little girl's home life and activities by comparison.

List what is 'diff'rent' about the two children's food, pets, games and their parents' activities.

What is the difference between riding in Normie's family's car and the girl's?

Describe the differences and similarities between Normie's father as an artist and artists in the city.

What 'special story' do you imagine the girl's grandfather might be telling her (and acting out) in the second last picture?

What does the story tell you about difference – are the two children more alike than different from each other?

How does the picture on the back cover make you feel?

Look closely at how the author has used colour throughout the book to differentiate between the city and the outback. How does this affect you as the reader?

