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Kristen@thebrightcookie.com

The Dirt Girl



Dear Educators,

Thank you for your interest and support of “The Dirt Girl”. I wrote this story to showcase that our differences are what makes each of us special. Each of us has a unique gift to bring to the world, and it manifests in different ways. Teaching children to embrace these difference will bring a world of change.

The other element I try to instill is that the natural world is magical in its own right ,and we need to remember to be present in its beauty. Too often today children believe screen stimulation is more interesting than something tangible or real.

In the story you will see how Zafera loves herself and the natural world, and isn't effected by others perceptions of her or their negative comments about who she is. She is in love with life and herself, and that wins them over. There are many layers to the story with hidden messages. It is a wonderful teaching resource.

With adoration & appreciation of all educators,

Jodi Dee

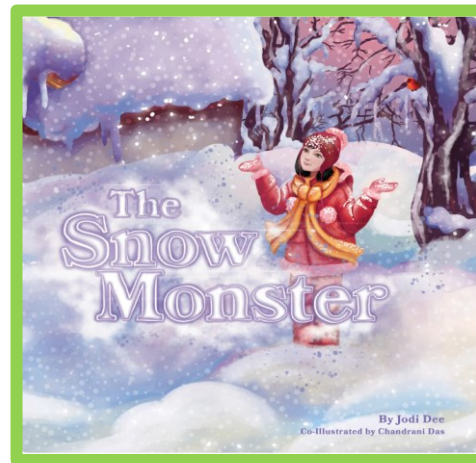
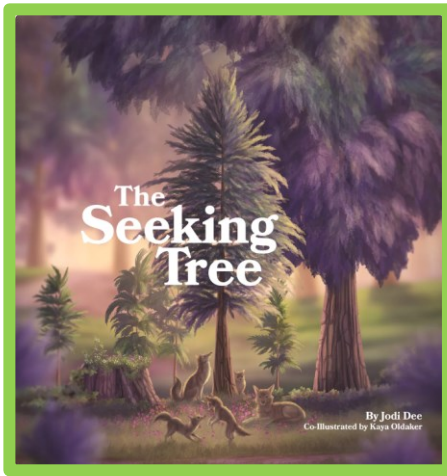
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Here are a few of her other inspiring books. Click on the cover to be directed to her site where you can read more details and purchase her books:





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The Bright Cookie.

For additional FREE resources, products
(greeting cards coming soon), classroom activities
and materials, and my blog Please visit
[The Bright Cookie!](#)

Also, if you are interested in having custom
lesson plans or resources created for your
classroom, etc. **I create lesson plans/resources for
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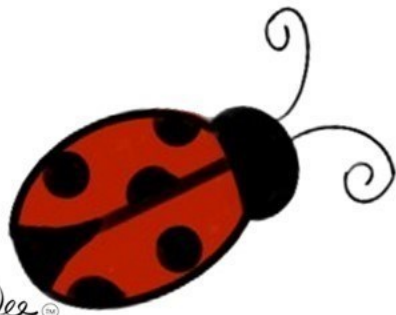
Facebook

The Dirt Girl

BY JODI DEE

's

WORK PACKET



DAY ONE: **THEME:** Stay true to who you are, be unique and be special.

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**** Introduce the cover of the book, and have the students predict what the story is going to be about. ****

PREDICTING PAGE

You can have students share out loud what they predict the book is about based on just seeing the cover. This can be a whole group activity, or you can have the students share their predictions out loud with a shoulder partner or their small group. (Available in printable or DIGITAL version.)

***Ask the students: What do you base your predictions on?**

Before reading the book aloud to the students for the first time, say:

“Today we are going to read a special story about a young girl named Zafera who is unique.”

***Ask the students what their definition of unique is, and some qualities of themselves that make them unique.**

BEING UNIQUE-

Have students share their answers with the class or their small group. (Available in printable or DIGITAL version.)

READ ALOUD #1-

STORY CONCEPTS PAGE-

After reading the story for the first time, students will fill out the story concepts page. (Available in printable or DIGITAL version.)

TEXT CONNECTIONS PAGE:

Students are asked to remember how they felt on the first day of school. After answering the questions, they will draw a picture that corresponds with their answer.

PREDICTING

What do you think the book The Dirt Girl is going to be about?



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BEING UNIQUE

Write the definition of UNIQUE in your own words:

List some unique character traits about yourself.

The Dirt Girl

By Jodi Dee

Characters:

Story Concepts

Setting:

Problem:

Favorite Part:

Solution:

THE DIRT GIRL

By Jodi Dee

TEXT CONNECTIONS

Do you remember what feelings you had when you first started school?
(This could be in Kindergarten, or a time that you had to change schools.) List them below:

Feelings you had:

Draw a picture to SHOW how you felt:

DAY TWO: **THEME:** Stay true to who you are, be unique and be special.

READ ALOUD #2-

Today we will focus on self-reflection and comprehension questions along with character traits of the main character and vocabulary activities. We will finish the day with a writing prompt that is available in a blank, lined, and DIGITAL copy.

CHARACTER TRAITS:

After reading the book aloud to the students for the second time, talk about the different character traits that Zafera has “Character Traits” page following this page. This page is provided in a printable or a digital copy. (This page comes in both printable and digital versions.)

SELF-REFLECTION / STORY COMPREHENSION:

Students will then be assigned the “Comprehension / Self-reflection” task cards (2 pages) to complete individually, with a partner, or with a small group. (These pages come in both printable and digital versions.)

VOCABULARY PUZZLES:

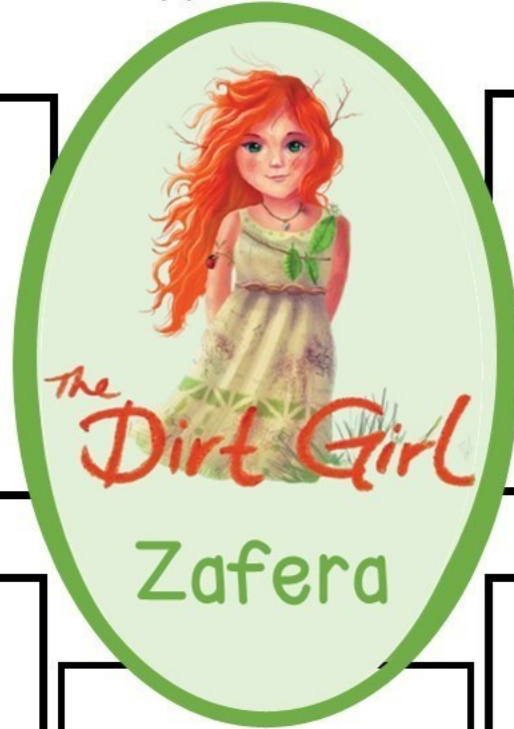
These puzzles are differentiated depending on the grade level using them. There is a version for older children that is not color coded, and a version for younger children that is color coded. Vocabulary used for these puzzles are vocabulary words that would be unknown or not common to the students reading the text.

WRITING PROMPT #2:

Students will then be assigned Writing Prompt #2 over “Being Teased.” ©TheBrightCookie, 2024

CHARACTER TRAITS

List the character traits of the Zafera. Use evidence from the text and illustrations to support your ideas.



Empty rectangular box for notes.

Empty rectangular box for notes.

Empty rectangular box for notes.

Empty rectangular box for notes.

Empty rectangular box for notes.

COMPREHENSION / SELF-REFLECTION TASK CARDS

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Page 4: What types of adjectives does the author use to describe Zafera?

Page 13: Why does Zafera smile as she plays alone on the playground?

Page 17: Do you think the invitations are homemade? Why or why not?

Page 27: Why are all the children silent?

COMPREHENSION / SELF-REFLECTION TASK CARDS

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Page 28: Is Zafera proud of her home?

Page 32: Sentence 1 : Why would the other children show up this way? What is your opinion?

Page 32-33: How do you think Zafera is feeling now?

Is it okay to be different from others and be proud of who you are? Explain.

VOCABULARY PUZZLES

laminating the puzzle pieces on cardstock will allow for you to reuse this activity/station year after year.

Option 1: A station, partner, or independent work- Students will mix up all the pieces from the vocabulary puzzles. Next, they will find the 4 pieces that match for each vocabulary puzzle.

Then, they will answer the question that is on each puzzle either on the puzzle piece (if printed on paper), or on the recording sheet.

Option 2: Like the game Memory: (2) versions- Differentiated version: Each puzzle set of 4 cards will have a matching-colored dot. So, when flipping over the cards during the "Memory" game, the student will know that it is a matching set.

Option 3: Whole Group: Give one puzzle piece (24 in all... so, leave out a vocab word if needed and have 20 pieces) to each student. Give the students a certain amount of time to find their quad, and then that group of four will each answer the question on the question piece.

Plentiful

Definition:
Having great
quantities; Abundant

Example Sentence:
"Strawberries, blueberries,
and grapes
were plentiful."

Question:
If you went to the
store with a parent
to make sure you
had a plentiful supply
of something, what
would you want your
parent to buy?

Proclaim

Definition:

Announce officially
or publicly.

Question:

When the girl at the party **proclaimed** that it was "the best party ever," how do you think that made Zafera feel?

Example Sentence:

"This is the best party ever! The most popular girl proclaimed."

Abode

Definition:

A place of residence; a house or home.

Example Sentence:

"Zafera's house was a spectacular abode built into the side of a mountain."

Question:

Describe your abode in 2-3 sentences.

Taunted

Definition:

A remark made
to anger
or hurt someone.

Example Sentence:

"Why do you have
twigs in your hair?"
one boy taunted.

Question:

How would you
have felt if you
were Zafera, and
on the first day
of school other
students taunted
you?

Ecstatic

Definition:

Extremely happy

Question:

What is something that you have been ecstatic about?

Example Sentence:

"On the day of the party, Zafera was ecstatic!"

Kaleidoscope

Definition:

A toy consisting of a tube containing mirrors and pieces of colored glass.

Question:

What is something colorful that you have seen? Describe it.

Example Sentence:

"The sunlight shone in through a beautiful kaleidoscope of color from above."

Proclaim

Definition:

Announce officially
or publicly.

Question:

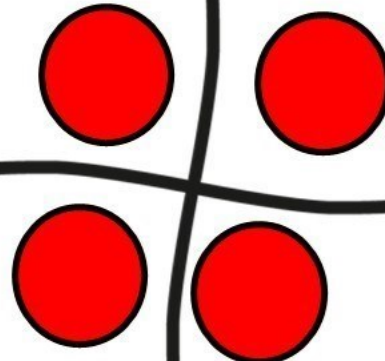
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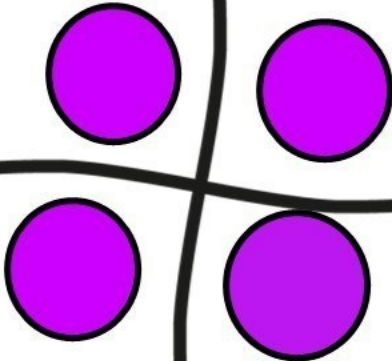
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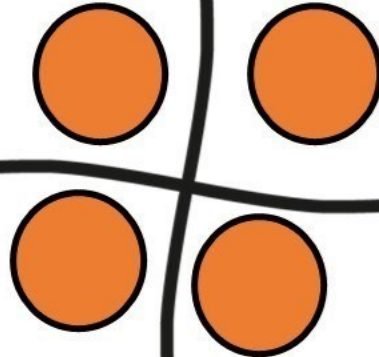
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Question:

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of school other
students taunted
you?

WRITING PROMPT:

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Can you remember a time that you may have been teased by someone?
How did that make you feel?

DAY THREE: THEME: Stay true to who you are, be unique and be special.

READ ALOUD #3 (or silent read at a station)-

Today we will focus on comparing ourselves to the main character using a Venn Diagram, Character Analysis- discussing how the main character changed from the beginning of the text to the end. (This is a critical concept for students to be able to understand. This concept is on most standardized tests.)

Venn Diagram-

Students will fill out the diagram comparing and contrasting themselves to the main character, Zafera.

Character Analysis:

After reading the book aloud to the students for the third time, talk about how the main character has changed from the beginning of the text to the end. Assign students the "Character Analysis" page in a printed copy or digital version.

Synonyms and Antonyms:

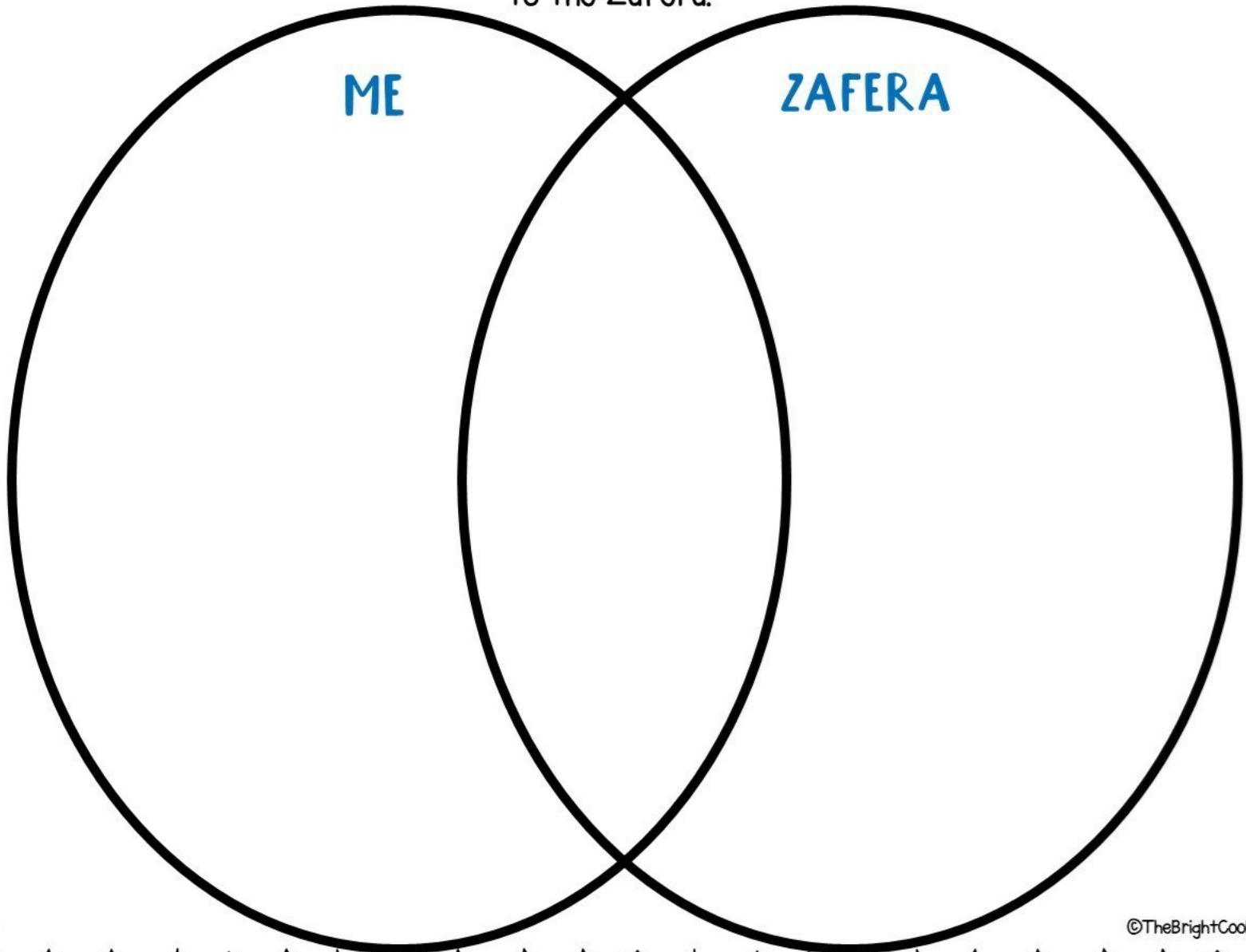
Students will complete a synonym and antonym activity that is provided in the resource. Younger students will come up with more basic words, while older students can be pushed to provide more advanced words.

More Comprehension and Self-Reflection Questions / Analysis Questions

Questions are assigned either by hard copy or digital version. Answer Key is provided.

VENN DIAGRAM:

Complete this Venn diagram with either words or pictures, comparing yourself to the Zafera.



THE DIRT GIRL CHARACTER ANALYSIS

By Jodi Dee

(Character Change)

How did Zafera change from the beginning of the story to the end?

BEGINNING:

END:



Synonyms and Antonyms

The book says that Zafera was "excited to go to school." Fill in the chart below for the word EXCITED.

Word: EXCITED

Synonyms <small>(words that mean the same)</small>	Antonyms <small>(words that mean the opposite of)</small>

The book says that Zafera's birthday invitations were "written in a strange red color that smelled sweet."

Fill in the chart below for the word SWEET.

Word: SWEET

Synonyms <small>(words that mean the same)</small>	Antonyms <small>(words that mean the opposite of)</small>

THE DIRT GIRL

By Jodi Dee
Comprehension and Self-Reflection Questions

1. What were some of the things about Zafera that were “different”?
2. What would you do if you saw Zafera playing alone at recess? How would you feel if you were the one playing alone?
3. Why did everyone Zafera invite come to her party?

The Dirt Girl- ANSWER KEY

Comprehension and Self-Reflection Questions

1. What were some of the things about Zafera that were "different" ?

She wore flowers and twigs in her hair.

She always had dirt on her.

She brought ladybugs and butterflies to school.

2. What would you do if you saw Zafera playing alone at recess? How would you feel if you were the one playing alone?

Answers will vary.

3. Why did everyone that Zafera invite come to her party?

They wanted to find out why she plays with caterpillars and bugs. They wanted to see what her house looked like.

A decorative border with a repeating pattern of small flowers and leaves surrounds the entire page.

THE DIRT GIRL

By Jodi Dee

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Analysis and Self-Reflection Questions

Why do you think Zafera invited everyone to her birthday party if they were unkind and teased her?

Why do you think that children came with sticks in their hair and dirt on their faces the day after the party?

DAY FOUR: THEME: Stay true to who you are, be unique and be special.

At this point, it is up to the teacher to read the book aloud once again or have students complete work based off the 3 previous times the book has been read to them.

Today we will focus on summarizing, completing the "Find the Following" page, an informal or formal assessment on the vocabulary from the text, and writing prompt #3.

Summarizing:

Students will write 1-2 complete sentences from the beginning, middle, and end of the story to make a quick summary of the overall book. This can be given to them in the hardcopy packet or assigned to them on a DIGITAL platform.

Find the Following:

Students will go through the book and answer the questions that this activity page asks. Once again, it can be in the hardcopy packet or assigned digitally.

Vocabulary Match:

There are (2) versions to this activity that can be used for an informal or formal assessment on the vocabulary within the text. One version, the students will draw a line from the vocab word to the definition it matches. For the other hard copy version, students will color the definition the same color as the word it matches. There is also a digital version of this assessment as well.

Writing Prompt #3: What makes you unique?- This prompt is provided on a blank page, a lined page, and a digital version as well. (Rough Draft)

THE DIRT GIRL

By Jodi Dee



SUMMARIZING

Write a couple of sentences from the beginning, the middle, and the end of the story. Put them altogether and you have the summary of the story.

Beginning:

Middle:

End:

THE DIRT GIRL

Find the Following...

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Your favorite picture and describe it:

Find a place where you make a connection. What is it?

Find a turning point in the book:

Find a place where you wish you could ask the author a question. What is the question?

Find something that made you feel sad:

Find an interesting verb the author used. Write the sentence the verb is in below and circle the verb.

VOCABULARY MATCH

Draw a line from the word to its matching definition.

plentiful

proclaim

abode

taunted

ecstatic

kaleidoscope

A remark made to anger or hurt someone

A place of residence; a house or home

Extremely happy

Having great quantities; abundant

A toy consisting of a tube containing mirrors and pieces of colored glass.

Announce officially or publicly

VOCABULARY MATCH

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plentiful

proclaim

abode

taunted

ecstatic

kaleidoscope

A remark made to anger or hurt someone

A place of residence; a house or home

Extremely happy

Having great quantities; abundant

A toy consisting of a tube containing mirrors and pieces of colored glass.

Announce officially or publicly

ANSWER KEY

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VOCABULARY MATCH

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Color the circle of the definition the same color as its matching vocabulary word.



plentiful



proclaim



abode



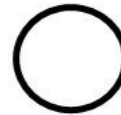
taunted



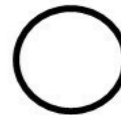
ecstatic



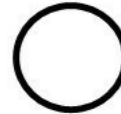
kaleidoscope



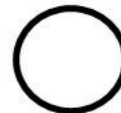
A remark made to anger
or hurt someone



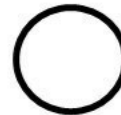
A place of residence; a
house or home



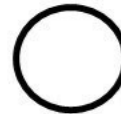
Extremely happy



Having great quantities;
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A toy consisting of a tube
containing mirrors and pieces
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Announce officially or
publicly

VOCABULARY MATCH

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Color the circle of the definition the same color as its matching vocabulary word.



plentiful



proclaim



abode



taunted



ecstatic



kaleidoscope



A remark made to anger
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A place of residence; a
house or home



Extremely happy



Having great quantities;
abundant



A toy consisting of a tube
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colored glass.



Announce officially or
publicly

DAY FIVE: **THEME:** Stay true to who you are, be unique and be special.

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“What makes you unique?” writing prompt.

(This prompt comes in a blank page, lined, and digital version.) **FINAL COPY**

Design your own birthday party invitation:

Students will use their creative side to design a birthday party invitation of their own! They can share with the class or have them hung as a display in our outside of the classroom.

Design your own book cover:

Students can design what they think the book cover for The Dirt Girl could be. Once again, they are able to use their creativity to complete this activity.

Coloring pages:

Numerous coloring pages are provided for students to color during independent work or stations.

The teacher can take this time to review any concepts covered during this SEL picture book unit.

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If everyone in the world was the same, the world would be a boring place. Being different and unique is a wonderful thing!

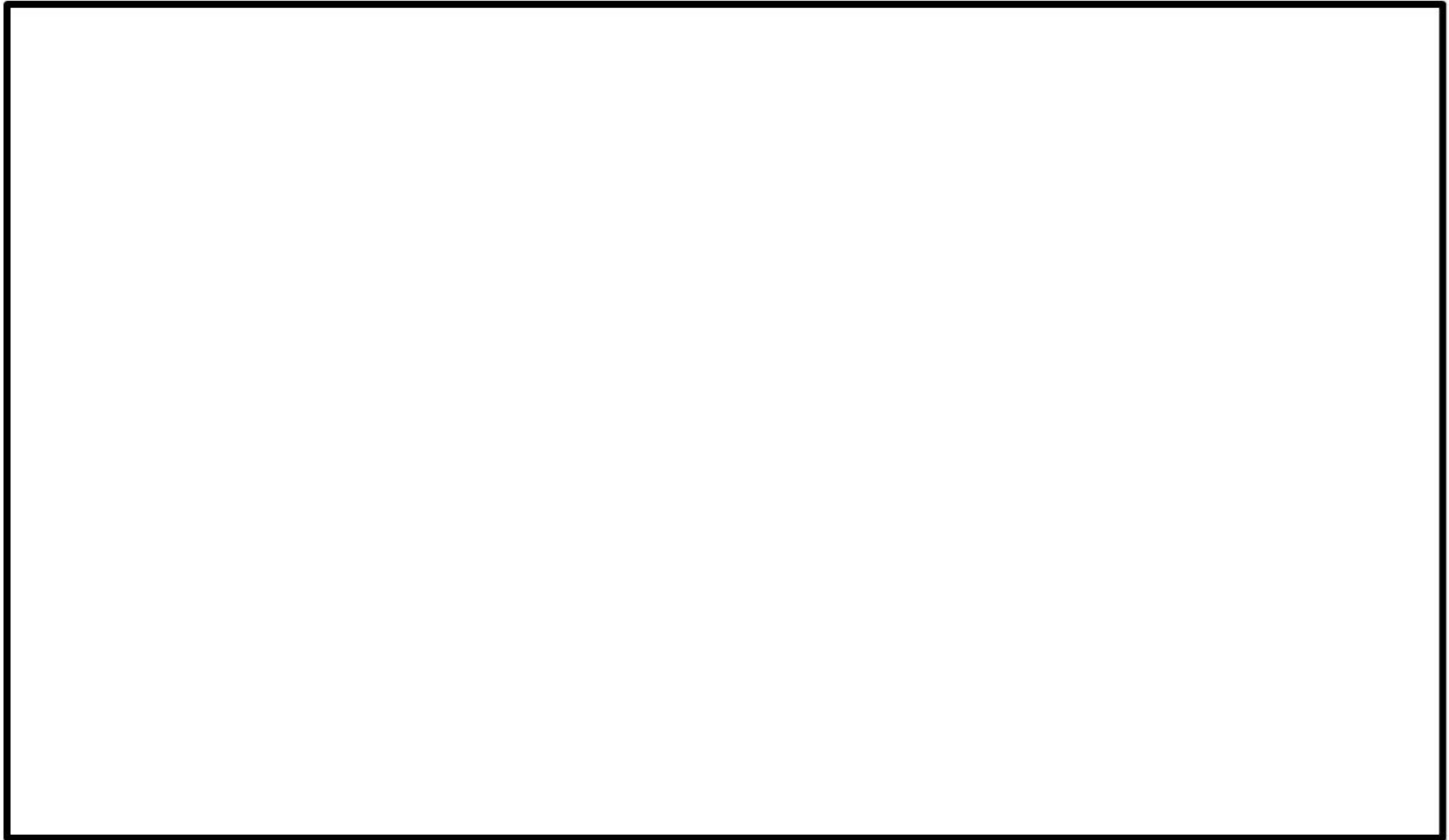
What makes you unique?

*Unique- being the only one of its kind; unlike anything else.

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THE DIRT GIRL DESIGN YOUR OWN PARTY INVITATION

When invitations Zafera handed out were “none like they had seen before.” All the students were amazed! Now, design a party invitation of your own! Be creative!

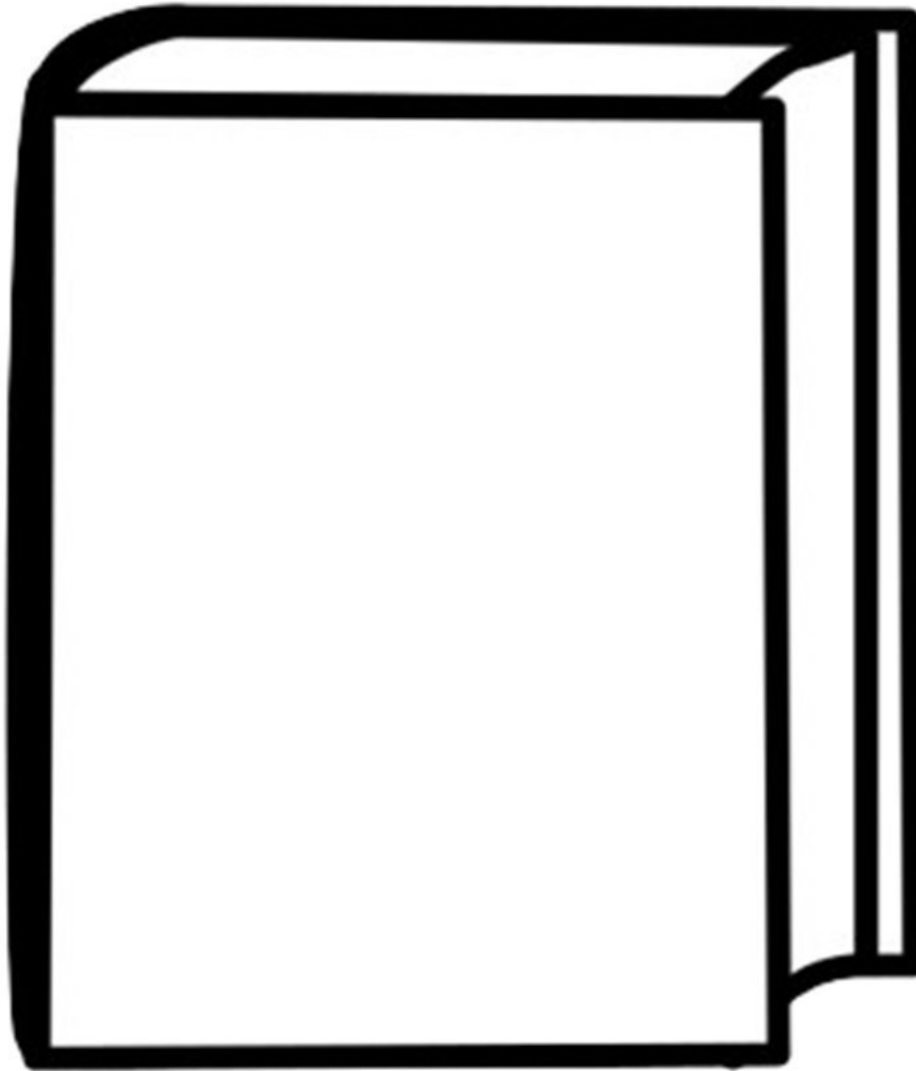
A large, empty rectangular box with a thick black border, intended for students to draw and design their own party invitation. The box is centered on the page and occupies most of the lower half of the worksheet.

THE DIRT GIRL

by Jodi Dee

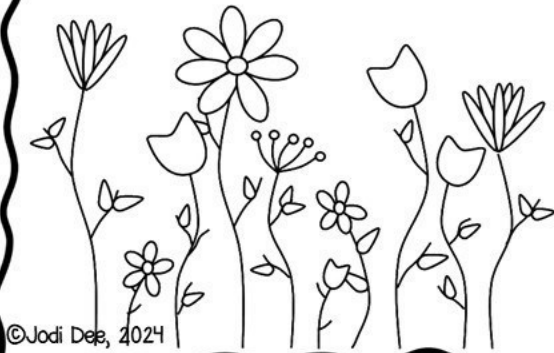
DESIGN A NEW BOOK COVER

Use your own creativity and design a new cover for the book.



BEING different
is what makes
each of us

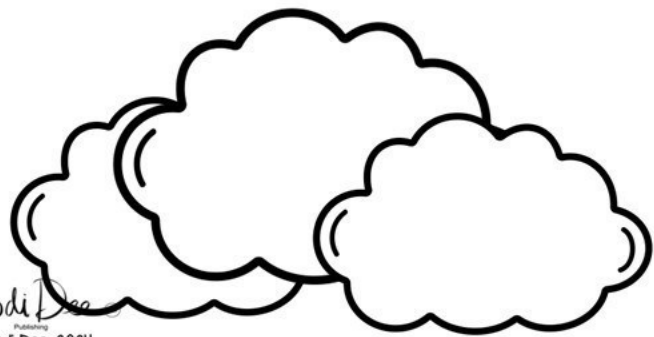
SPECIAL.



Hold

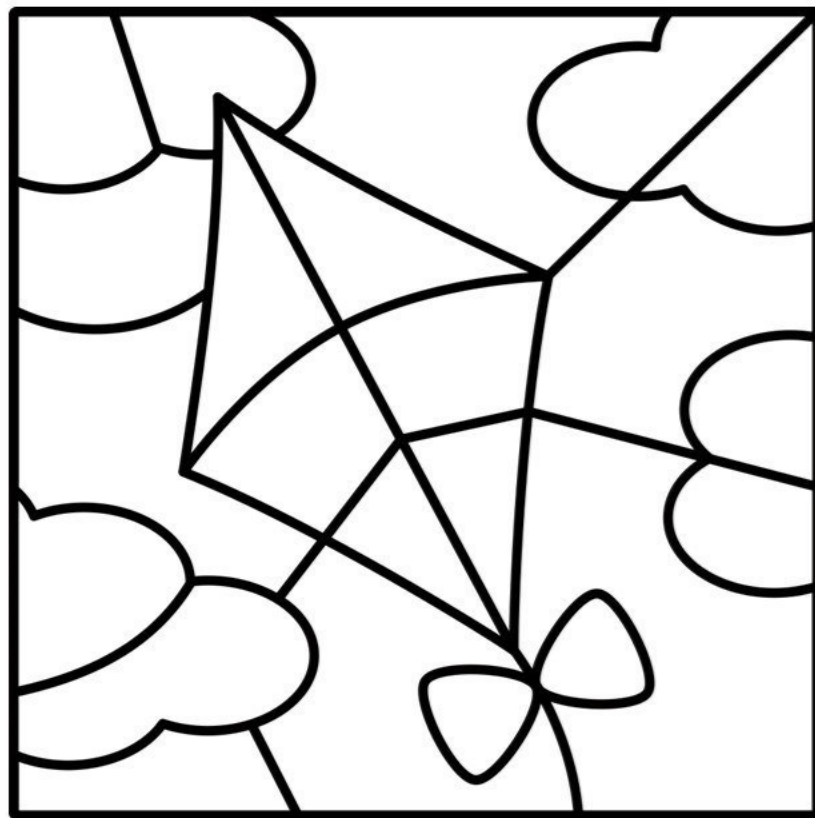
TRUE

to who



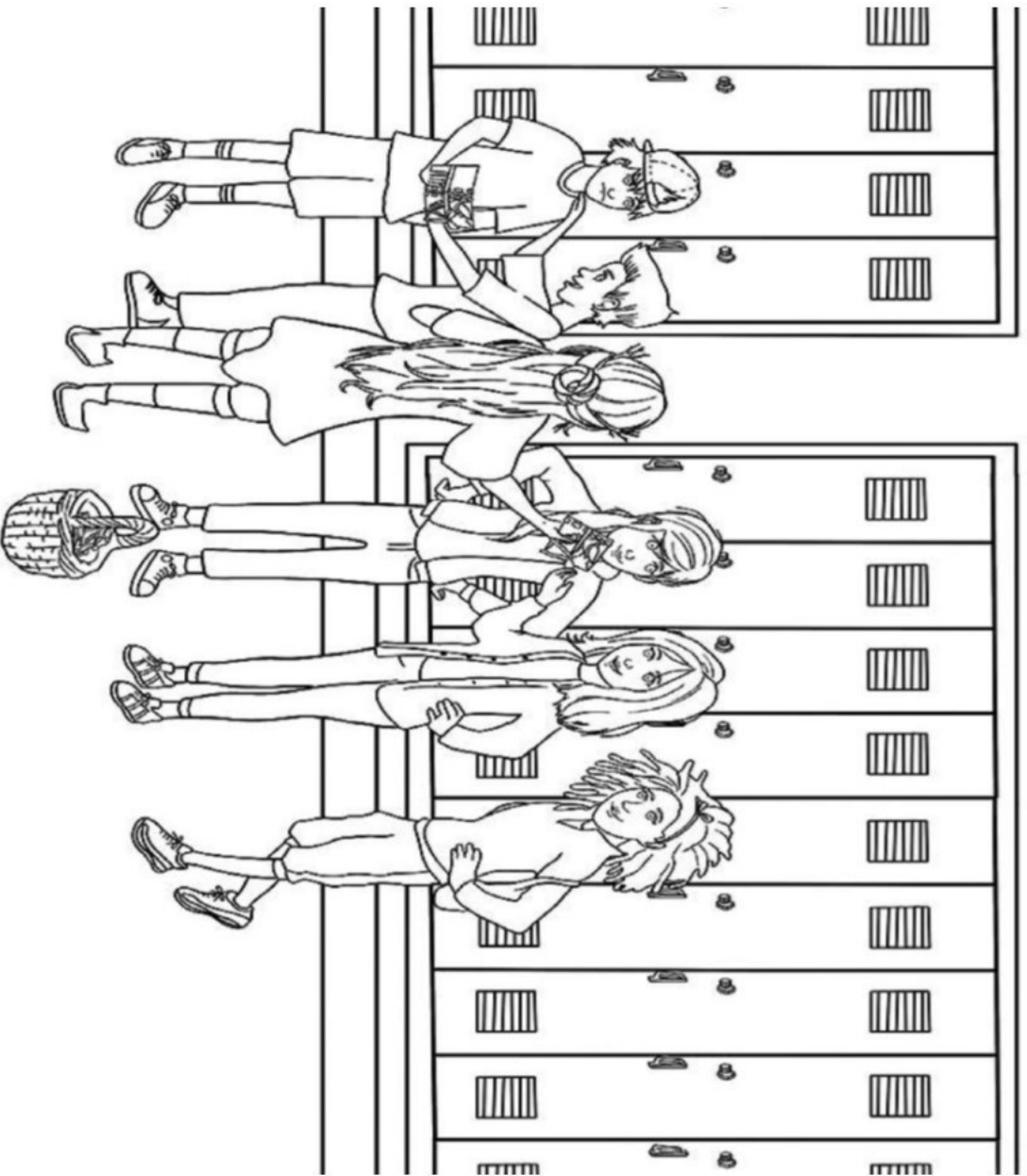
YOU

are.









ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES:

Take the time to have each child draw a picture of him or herself. This will represent all the different children in the classroom. After creating the drawing have the kids walk around talking about how they are alike and different, and how each person is special in their own way. You could then hand the characters in a circle or side by side to show we live in a unique world where it is okay to be yourself and celebrate differences.

Earth Awareness Poster Activity:

Whole Group Discussion: What is Earth Awareness?

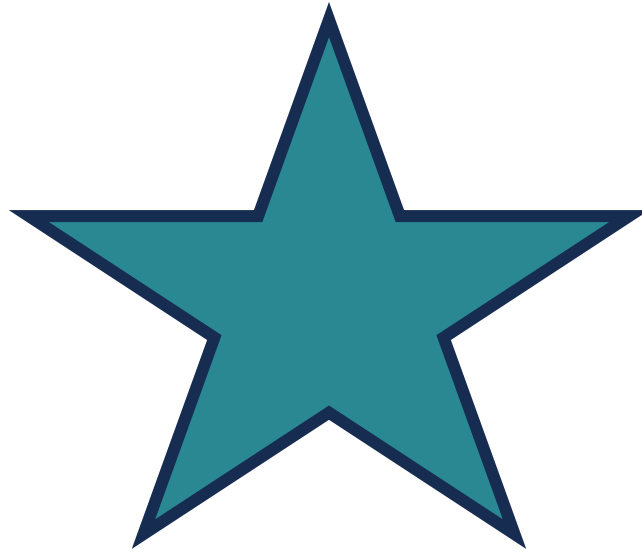
- On the board, brainstorm and list the different answers that students give.
- Split the students into groups or partners.
- Give them the topic: What does the book The Dirt Girl have to do with Earth Awareness?

Let them discuss amongst each other, and then give them the materials to make a poster for their group. Each group should illustrate or write different ways that the book symbolizes or has to do with Earth Awareness. The posters can be presented to the class and then hung up in the hallway or the classroom as a display.

*Earth Awareness- The necessity and responsibility of humans to respect, protect, and preserve the natural world around them.

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Click on the STAR below to get your digital copy of my activity.



If you notice an issue with your file, notice an error, or in any way encounter an error, please contact me at kristen@thebrightcookie.com,

and I will be more than happy to sort it out!



Credits

Thank you to all the incredible artists for their beautiful design elements and expertise contributed towards this resource!



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