



THAT'S WHAT
FRIENDS DO —
THEY FORGIVE
EACH OTHER

DIFFERENCE

INTRODUCTION

Fiona, unable to admit to others that by night she becomes an ogre, hides herself away before sunset. She keeps this fact a secret from Shrek, someone she actually loves and respects despite his appearance. She hopes and hopes that a handsome prince will come along and break the curse. Even when she begins to feel love for Shrek, she pursues her quest for life with the beautiful “normal” crowd. She wants desperately to be accepted by the “right” people.

Of course, as fairy tales will do, it all turns out fine and the characters eventually learn the key to real happiness is in accepting who you are and knowing who your friends are.

BE PREPARED TO HAVE YOUR MIND BLOWN

For this activity, you will need to divide your students into pairs, but they will need to be with someone who they have something in common with. You could use one of the Kagan Structures, such as Rally Robin to mix them up. Or, give them a short amount of time to get into a long line – the tallest student at one end of the line and the shortest at the other. Pair them up with the person next to them. They are now with someone who is roughly the same height as them. In their pairs, ask students to discover at least five more things that they have in common. Sit your class in a circle and, taking it in turns in their pairs, ask the students to introduce their new friend to the rest of the group, explaining the six things that the two of them have in common, remembering three of them each. Repeat the exercise, this time starting with a line up of shoe sizes, with the smallest shoe size at one end and the largest at the other. Once students have paired up and shared the six things that they have in common, ask them to create a ‘Wanted’ poster for a ‘New Friend’, with a picture of the student they have been talking to and the six identified features. If you want to use ICT to do this, you could take photographs and include them on the poster. At the end of the process, ask students to reflect on what they have learnt about others in the class. As in **SHREK THE MUSICAL**, they should have discovered that they have more in common with others than they might initially think.

DOUGHNUTS AND DIABETES

In **SHREK THE MUSICAL**, Donkey makes absolutely clear to Shrek, why they should be friends. He tells Shrek that they have lots of things in common when, in fact, they seem on the surface to be completely different. After all, Shrek is a large green ogre and Donkey is...well, four legged and grey! Let your students read the lyrics to “Don’t Let Me Go”, and then ask them to consider why they think people who are as different as Shrek and Donkey can make such good friends. Pair students up with someone in the class that they consider to be a ‘friend’. This doesn’t have to be their ‘best friend’, but they should know each other at least reasonably well. Now, ask them to decide on at least six things about them that are complete opposites. They should then create their own rap that includes the six things that they have discovered that are different about each of them and why those things don’t matter to their friendship. Perform the finished raps to the class, with each student in the pairs taking a turn to do their own verses.

RESOURCES

REPEATED ON PAGE 23

Just hear me out, I might surprise you.
I’ll be a friend when others despise you.
Don’t roll your eyes! Stop with the mopin’!
You need a pal. My calendar’s open!

I’ll bring you soup when you feel congested.
I’ll bail you out when you get arrested.
I gotcha back when things get scary.
And I’ll shave it when it gets hairy.

I’ll treat you right, and never act shoddy.
If you kill a man, I’ll hide the body.
Whadaya say? You’re not responding.
.....I think we’re bonding!

from “Don’t Let Me Go”
Music by Jeanine Tesori
Lyrics by David Lindsay-Abaire