

The Very First You

By Scott Stuart

Publisher: Bright Light Books / Hardie Grant Children's Publishing

ISBN 9781760508883 SCIS: 5366553

\$19.99

Nobody has ever smiled your smile, or ran the way that you run.

The chances of you being born as you are were 400 trillion to one.

Scott Stuart encourages young readers to embrace their uniqueness and see the joy that their individuality brings to the world. Encompassing children from different backgrounds and told in irresistible rhyme, *The Very First You* is a must-have picture book for all young readers.



Teacher Notes have been based on those supplied by the publisher. A full version is available on our website.

Themes:

- Identity and self-expression
- Creativity
- Celebrating differences
- Imagination
- Inclusion

Discussion Questions, Comprehension and Activities:

- How do we make space for people who are different to ourselves, and why is this important?
- What changes do we want to make in the world around us?
- How do we talk to other people about what we want?
- Why is freedom of expression important?
- How do you see kids expressing themselves differently in the illustrations in this story?
- How do you think the kids in the book feel? What makes you think this? Why do you think they feel this way?
- Make a list of the different ways people share their unique selves in the book. Can you come up with any ways or places that you're able to be yourself?
- What does it feel like to NOT be able to be yourself? When have you felt like this?
- Why do you think the author of the book has chosen to make it so colourful? How do the illustrations show the book's theme of difference?
- What does your school do to celebrate difference? How could you celebrate difference in your classroom? Draw a picture of one of your ideas.
- Pair up with someone in the class that you don't know very well and share something about yourselves with each other.
- The writer says 'you see the world in your own special way – a way that should make you feel proud.' Write about a time that you've felt proud to see the world the way you do.
- Make a list of all the things you have in common with your friends. Name one thing that makes you different. Do you celebrate these difference in your friendship? How? (If not, how could you start?)
- 'You imagine new worlds that only you can'. Create a new world entirely from your imagination. Describe one of the characters from your world, and draw them in their home.
- In what ways are you being the best 'you' you can be right now? How would you like to be the best 'you' you can be in the future? Write a letter from your future self to yourself right now – what does the world look like in the future?