

Table of Contents

Introduction	3
Sample Lesson Plan	4
Before the Book (<i>Pre-reading Activities</i>)	5
About the Author	6
Book Summary	7
Vocabulary Lists	8
Vocabulary Activity Ideas	9
SECTION 1 (<i>Chapters 1 and 2</i>)	10
◆ Quiz Time!	
◆ Hands-On Project—The Art of Running	
◆ Cooperative Learning Activity—Simile Partners	
◆ Curriculum Connections—Physical Education	
◆ Into Your Life—Reading Response Journals	
SECTION 2 (<i>Chapters 3 and 4</i>)	15
◆ Quiz Time!	
◆ Hands-On Project—First Day of School Fashion Show!	
◆ Cooperative Learning Activity—Being Different	
◆ Curriculum Connections—Science	
◆ Into Your Life—Reassess Your Value Structure!	
SECTION 3 (<i>Chapters 5 through 7</i>)	20
◆ Quiz Time!	
◆ Hands-On Project—A Set of Paints	
◆ Cooperative Learning Activity—From Foe to Friend	
◆ Curriculum Connections—Social Studies	
◆ Into Your Life—Gifts	
SECTION 4 (<i>Chapters 8 through 10</i>)	25
◆ Quiz Time!	
◆ Hands-On Project—Milking Time!	
◆ Cooperative Learning Activity—The Perfect Day	
◆ Curriculum Connections—Art	
◆ Into Your Life—Facing Fears	
SECTION 5 (<i>Chapters 11 through 13</i>)	30
◆ Quiz Time!	
◆ Hands-On Project—The Wreath	
◆ Cooperative Learning Activity—Terabithia Revisited	
◆ Curriculum Connections—Language Arts	
◆ Into Your Life—Dedications	
After the Book (<i>Post-reading Activities</i>)	
Any Questions?	35
Book Report Ideas	36
Research Ideas	37
Culminating Activity	38
Unit Test Options	42
Bibliography of Related Reading	45
Answer Key	46

Being Different

Leslie Burke is ridiculed because she is different. The girls make fun of the way she dresses, the way she acts, the food she eats, and what she does or does not have at home. Leslie's feelings are hurt considerably because of their insensitivity.

Feeling good about ourselves has a lot to do with what others say and think about us. It matters what others perceive us to be. All of us need to remember that we help to play a part in the development of a positive self-image in the people whose lives we touch every day. We must be sensitive to the feelings of others and reassure those around us that being different is acceptable, and desirable! All people are different in some way. The differences are what make our world a more interesting place. Can you imagine a world in which all people had the same color of skin, hair, and eyes, were the same height and weight, liked to eat the same kinds of foods, and had the same hobbies and jobs? Differences enrich our lives, and help make each day full of surprises!

In groups of three or four, list all the differences you can find among the people in your group. After you have completed your list, discuss how each of these differences can enrich your lives.

Here are some categories to help you get started.



- physical characteristics
 - skin color
 - eye color
 - hair length and color
 - height and weight
 - mannerisms
- abilities
- individual preferences
- home and neighborhood experiences
- ethnic background
- religious training
- cultural background
- family standards
- family size
- allergies
- possessions
- parents' jobs
- nearness of relatives
- friendships
- fears
- hobbies
- . . . and more!

Reassess Your Value Structure

The Burkes moved from the suburban city of Arlington to the old farm in the country because they wanted to “reassess their value structure.” Leslie’s parents decided that money and success were becoming too important to them, and they wanted to live in a place where they could think about what was really important in their lives.

Have you ever thought about what is really important in your life? Are there things that are more important than others, such as television, a bicycle, clothing, or a special toy? Are there people that are more important than others, such as a parent, a brother or sister, a special friend, or a teacher? Are there values that are more important than others for your life, such as honesty, wealth, happiness, security, good health, or popularity?

Make a list of five things, people, and values that are important in your life and rank them in their order of importance to you.

Important Things	Important People
1. _____	1. _____
2. _____	2. _____
3. _____	3. _____
4. _____	4. _____
5. _____	5. _____

athletic ability
 beauty
 wealth
 popularity
 good health
 happiness

Important Values

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

peace
 respect
 truth
 bravery
 loyalty
 security
 freedom
 wisdom
 honesty

Brainstorm with your class for other values that are important to add to your list of possibilities.