Mesquite United

Embracing Diversity

Lesson #6

Focus: Our focus for this week is for students to understand that although we are all different in some way, no matter what it is that makes us unique, we can do amazing things! Some things that make us unique may bring challenges, but that doesn’t mean it needs to prevent us from achieving greatness. It could even be what gives us an idea or be the motivation.

Resources: For lower grade levels this is a great one. “It’s Okay to Be Different” by Todd Parr and it is in our library. There are some online read aloud versions of it too. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=shYf3prwXJU> There are also some other great biographies that are age appropriate for ALL grade levels in the library too that Mrs. Hayes pulled and put on our “embracing diversity” shelf.

Have students discuss how people who have had diversities, that could even sometimes be looked at as a disability or could have led to them being treated unfairly, have impacted the world. To go along with Black history month, you could take a minute to shine light on some well-known people who impacted black history, but also allow students time to brain storm if they can think of any others, who because of their differences, gave them motivation that made a big impact on society. Some examples are:

[Helen Keller](https://www.biographyonline.net/women/helen-keller.html)- Despite her condition of both deafness and blindness, she learned to read and write, becoming a champion of social issues and helping to improve the welfare of deaf people.

Harriet Tubman- Former slave who escaped and then helped many more to escape on the Underground Railroad.

[Rosa Parks](https://www.biographyonline.net/humanitarian/rosa-parks.html) – Instrumental in the US civil rights movement of the 1950s and 60s. It was Parks who began an influential boycott of segregated buses in 1955.

Frederick Douglass- His autobiography of life as a slave, and his speeches denouncing slavery – were influential in changing public opinion and he became a leading figurehead in the anti-slavery movement.

**Franklin Roosevelt-** developed polio, which eventually [left him paralyzed from the waist down for the rest of his life](http://www.ehdp.com/out/jmb_2003_v11_p232-240.pdf). Even though he couldn’t walk, he went on to lead the country as one of the most respected and memorable presidents in history.

Close- Talk with students that no matter how big the struggle may seem; it could be what leads them to do amazing things! It could be inventing something that is in relation to their uniqueness or even simply bringing awareness to give others who share that same difference support that they may need!