

## Grade 4

### Health Objective 3.02

Demonstrate empathy for individuals affected by disease or disability.

### Language Arts 3.03

Consider the ways language and visuals bring characters to life, enhance plot development and produce a response.

### Materials Needed:

Appendix 1 - A Day Without Sight handout

*Don't Call Me Special: A First Look at Disability* by Pat Thomas, Lesley Harker

Paper plates (one for each student)

Pictures of people from magazines including five pictures of individuals who are affected by a disease or disability

### Focus:

Give each student a copy of A Day Without Sight handout (Appendix 1). In the first column tell the students that they are to write down everything that they have done to this point in the day. After they have written down everything that they have done, students should explain how they would do those things if they could not see. In the final column, students should list what senses they would need to use to complete the activity without sight. Discuss with the students how difficult this might be and explain that this is an example of what it means to have empathy.

### Teacher Input:

There are many different people in the world, and each one is special. Some people may have physical or mental challenges. Children may be confused when meeting another student with special needs. It is important that children demonstrate empathy for others who are affected by disease or disability. Discussing the special needs of others will encourage students to have a positive attitude about those affected by a disease or disability.

Discuss with students how they might be able to help a friend with special needs. Remind them that, although each person is different, we all have one thing in common. We all have or want to have friends. It is important to help your friends and others with special needs. You can do this by offering your help and making them feel o.k. about their situation. Some ways to help classmates or others with special needs include:

- If some of your classmates are teasing your friend, you can help by talking to a teacher or telling them to stop.
- Help friends or classmates with physical tasks if they need or want help.
- Remember to treat individuals with special needs just like you would your other friends.

### Practice & Assessment:

Read *Don't Call me Special: A First Look at Disability* to the students. Arrange the students into groups of four or five. Give each group one plate per person face down with each group receiving one of the plates with a picture of a person who is disabled. On your signal, the members of the group turn over their plates. From the picture, each group member creates a character, then as a collaborative effort, each group then writes a short story based on those characters. Allow students 30 minutes to write their stories.

After each group has finished allow the groups to share their stories with the class. Discuss how the groups' stories may be similar, how they different, and how people, although they may be different, enjoy many of the same things. End the discussion on how we can help others and show empathy to those who are different than us.

<b>A Day with Sight</b>	<b>A Day Without Sight</b>	<b>Senses Needed</b>