

The SEL Interactive Read Aloud Collection

Tulare County Office of Education

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All Kinds of Special by Tammi Sauer

Self-Awareness – Understanding personal strengths and uniqueness.

Self-Management – Managing emotions about change and personal growth.

Social Awareness – Recognizing and appreciating differences in others.

Relationship Skills – Supporting and encouraging friends.

Background

All Kinds of Special by Tammi Sauer is a touching story about what makes something special. The book follows Mia, a young girl who experiences an important change in her life. Through her journey, she learns that special moments, people, and experiences come in different forms. This beautifully illustrated book highlights themes of self-acceptance, change, and appreciating what makes life meaningful.

Before You Read

What does the word “special” mean to you?

Can something be special for one person but not for another? Why?

Think of something or someone special in your life. What makes them special to you?

How do you feel when something changes in your life? Is it always easy?

What are some ways we can make others feel special?

While You Read

Guiding Questions

(Self-Awareness) – How do you think Mia feels at the beginning of the story?

(Self-Management) – Mia faces a big change in her life. How do you think she is handling it?

(Social Awareness) – What does Mia notice about the people around her? How does she react?

(Relationship Skills) – How do Mia’s relationships help her understand what’s special?

(Self-Awareness) – What does Mia learn about herself as the story continues?

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	<p>(Responsible Decision-Making) – Mia starts to see special things in unexpected places. Why is this important?</p> <p>(Self-Management) – When Mia feels unsure, what helps her feel better?</p> <p>(Social Awareness) – How do the illustrations show that special things can look different for everyone?</p> <p>(Relationship Skills) – How does Mia’s understanding of “special” change by the end of the book?</p> <p>(Responsible Decision-Making) – What do you think is the message of this story?</p>
After Reading	<p>For Grades K-2: “My Special Treasure”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Each student draws or brings in a small item that represents something special to them.• They share with the class why it’s special, encouraging self-awareness and social awareness.• The class discusses how everyone’s idea of special can be different, building empathy and understanding. <p>For Grades 3-5: “Special Moments Journal”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Students write about a time when they felt something was special to them.• They reflect on why it was special and how it made them feel.• In small groups, they share their moments and discuss how different experiences can be meaningful in unique ways, fostering social awareness and relationship skills.