

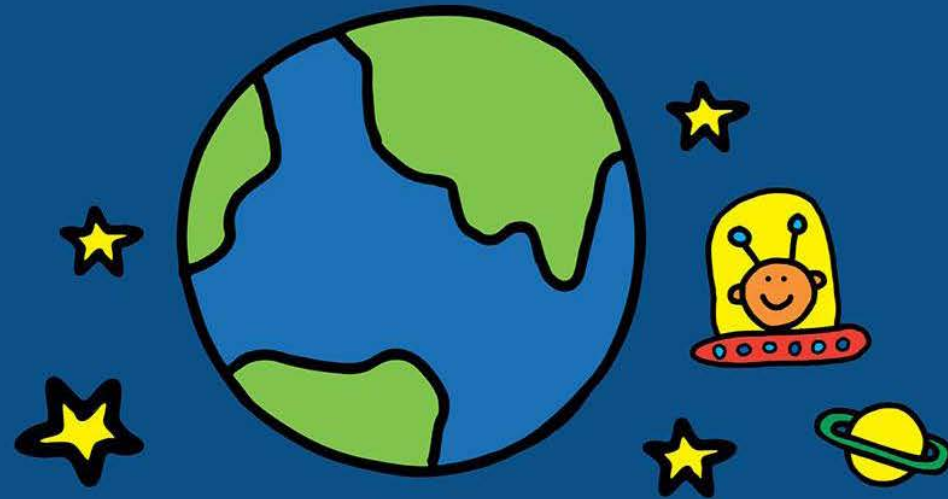
EDUCATION
WORKSHOP

PRODUCED BY
**MERMAID
THEATRE**
OF NOVA SCOTIA

**It's Okay to
Be Different**

--

3 Years – 2nd
Grade



IT'S OKAY TO BE DIFFERENT

Stories by Todd Parr
The New York Times Best Selling Author



CHARLESTON
GAILLARD
CENTER

MEET THE AUTHOR

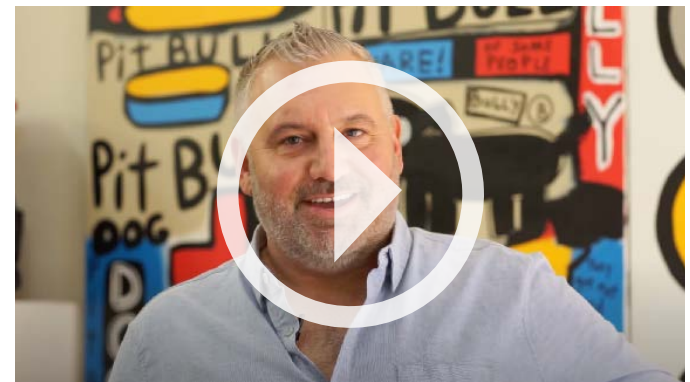
TODD PARR

Todd Parr is the author and illustrator of more than 71 books for children, including the New York Times bestsellers: *The I Love You Book*, *The Earth Book*, and *The Thankful Book*. Todd's books are available in over forty countries throughout the world. He was the cocreator of the 3X EMMY-Nominated children's television show ToddWorld™, and he has created several short films for Sesame Street. His work is published by Little, Brown Books for Young Readers, a division of Hachette Book Group.

WATCH



Interview with Todd Parr



Read Aloud: *It's Ok to Be Different*



ABOUT THE SHOW

ABOUT THE MERMAID THEATRE

In 1972, Mermaid Theatre of Nova Scotia was founded by Evelyn Garbary, Sara Lee Lewis, and Tom Miller. The company received a grant from Canada's Local Initiatives Program and support from Acadia University. Mermaid Theatre is committed to introducing the performing arts and literature to rural children. Performing an adaptation of Gogol's *The Nose* on May 3, 1972, this dynamic team first "featured the innovative blend of puppets, movement, music, and storytelling that was to become Mermaid's trademark."²

It's Okay to Be Different – Stories by Todd Parr will feature an innovative approach to puppetry manipulation and construction, combined with playful original music for which the company has earned worldwide praise.³

**It's Okay to
Be Different**

3

²"Our History," Mermaid Theatre of Nova Scotia, accessed June 2, 2022, <https://mermaidtheatre.ca/history>.

³"Mermaid Theatre of Nova Scotia Launches New Production," Mermaid Theatre of Nova Scotia, accessed June 2, 2022, <https://mermaidtheatre.ca/toddparr>.

EXPLORE // Classroom Workshops



I am Special Mirror

In this workshop, students will listen to the story, *It's Okay to Be Different*, and will create an "I am Special Mirror." Students will share what makes them special and different from others! ⁴

[Click Here for Workshop](#)



A Puppet of Me!

In this workshop, students will listen to the story, *It's Okay to Be Different*, and will create a puppet that represents them. After sharing their opinion on what makes them special and different, students will be able to design their own unique puppet and use colors that they identify with.

[Click Here for Workshop](#)



Emotion Freeze Dance and a Colorful Self-Portrait Collage

In this workshop, students will listen to the story, *It's Okay to Be Different*, and will analyze Todd Parr's artistic style. Students will use paper to collage a self-portrait of themselves and participate in a freeze dance all about emotions. ⁵

[Click Here for Workshop](#)

⁴ Amie Bentley, "All About Me in Preschool Art Activity," Glitter Meets Glue (blog), accessed June 2, 2022, <https://glittermeetsglue.com/all-about-me/>.

⁵ "Paper Cut Self-Portraits," Deep Space Sparkle, accessed June 2, 2022, <https://www.deepspacesparkle.com/paper-portraits/>.

CONNECT // Todd Parr Author Study

Continue the theme of self-love and appreciation for others by reading more books by Todd Parr!



Love the World

*Love your grin. Love your skin.
Love the bees. Love the trees.
Love giving a hand. Love taking a stand.
LOVE YOURSELF. LOVE THE WORLD!*

What the world needs now is love—and who better than Todd Parr to share a message of kindness, charity, and acceptance. Touching upon themes including self-esteem, environmentalism, and respect for others, Todd uses his signature silly and accessible style to encourage readers to show love for themselves and all the people, places, and things they encounter. ⁶



Be Who You Are!

*Be who you are!
Be proud of where you're from.
Be a different color. Speak your language.
Wear everything you need to be you.*

Who better than Todd Parr to remind kids that their unique traits are what make them so special? With his signature silly and accessible style, Parr encourages readers to embrace all their unique qualities. ⁷



The Goodbye Book

Through the lens of a pet fish who has lost his companion, Todd Parr tells a moving and wholly accessible story about saying goodbye. Touching upon the host of emotions children experience, Todd reminds readers that it's okay not to know all the answers, and that someone will always be there to support them. An invaluable resource for life's toughest moments. ⁸

⁶ "Overview of Love the World," Barnes & Noble, accessed June 2, 2022, <https://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/love-the-world-todd-parr/1125424890?ean=9780316506588>.

⁷ "Overview of Be Who You Are!," Barnes & Noble, accessed June 2, 2022, <https://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/be-who-you-are-todd-parr/1123531239?ean=9780316265232>.

⁸ "Overview of The Goodbye Book," Barnes & Noble, accessed June 2, 2022, <https://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/the-goodbye-book-todd-parr/1121006116?ean=9780316404976>.

CONNECT // Todd Parr Author Study Cont.

Continue the theme of self-love and appreciation for others by reading more books by Todd Parr!

WATCH



The Family Book by Todd Parr



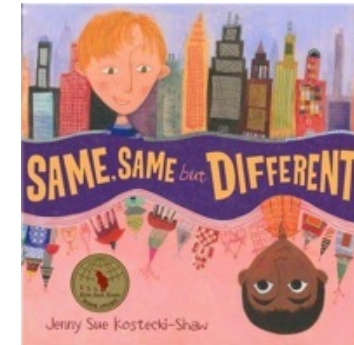
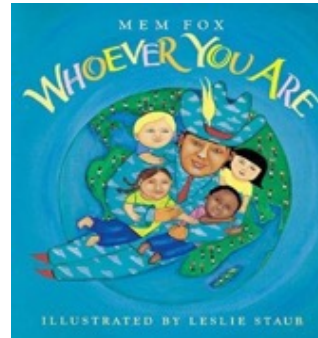
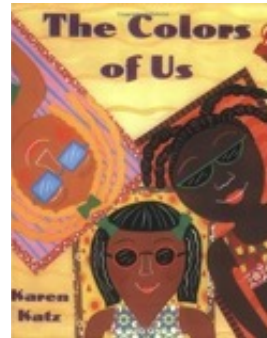
The Feelings Book (English and Spanish) by Todd Parr
Read Aloud by Ping

ENHANCE

The Gaillard Center suggests these enhanced activities.

Around the World Unit: Celebrate the differences in the classroom by learning about other cultures around the world!

READ



LISTEN

Let students appreciate the different instruments and sounds they hear in music from around the world. Let them listen during morning work, snack time, centers, etc.

[AUSTRALIAN ABORIGINAL DIDGERIDOO MUSIC](#)

[FLUTE MUSIC FROM INDIA](#)

[IRISH CELTIC MUSIC](#)

[AFRICAN FOLK MUSIC](#)

ENHANCE // CONT.

Around the World Unit: Celebrate the differences in the classroom by learning about other cultures around the world!

ACTIVITIES



[Native American Dream Catchers](#)



[Batik Indonesia Fan](#)



[Brazilian Coffee Filter Dancers](#)

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EDUCATIONAL PARTNERS

The Gaillard Center would like to thank the following educational partners in their ongoing support of our Education & Community program. This program is also supported, in part, by a grant from a private foundation.

Gaillard Center Partners



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A Music, Drama & Dance Program



It's Okay to
Be Different