

Unique Characters: 3rd-5th Grade

A RIF Guide for Educators

Themes: Special Powers, Superheroes, Fantasy, Science Fiction, Diversity, Inclusion

Book Brief: This guide is designed for use with books about characters with special powers or traits at the 3rd-5th Grade reading level. Adapt the questions and activities in this guide to the book you are reading.

Content Connections: ELA, Health, Social Studies

Time To Read!

Before we read, let's look at...

The Cover: Based on the cover, including the title and any illustrations, what character or characters is this book mainly about? What makes those characters unique or special? Do these characters appear to have any special powers?

Prior Knowledge: Have you read any books about these or similar characters before? What makes characters like this special or different from those around them?

Vocabulary: Identify 8-10 words that are likely to be new to your students and introduce them before you read this book with your class.

Purpose for Reading: It's important to be able to describe the characters in a book. As we read, note special or unique powers or character traits for each of the main characters.

While We Read

Monitoring Comprehension

- What makes the main character(s) in this book unique?
- Do other characters have special traits or powers that make them different from each other and from the people in the world around them?
- From whose point of view is the story told? Is it told from the point of view of a unique character or from the point of view of someone observing the unique character? Is the narration first or third-person?
- Is the character trait that makes the character unique treated as a good thing, a bad thing, or neither?
- Summarize the story.

Let's Think About

Our Purpose: Describe the main character, noting what makes him or her unique. Use specific details from the story, including characters' thoughts, words, and actions. Use quotes from the book to support your answers.

Extending Our Thinking: Think about what makes the character or characters in this story unique. Then think about a special skill or character trait that makes you unique. Write a paragraph about how this skill or character trait makes you special and how it helps you in school and in life.