

## Something Else classroom activity ideas

### Curricular links

Changing Faces' *Something Else* classroom activities are aimed at teachers who have chosen to study the book *Something Else*. Written by Kathryn Cave and illustrated by Chris Riddell the book explores what it's like to look different and can be used for guided reading or literacy activities, as a whole class text or as the basis for project work. The focus is on key themes from the book such as: feeling left out; judging others based on their appearance; the idea of belonging; making friends; and respecting and valuing difference.

These activities support the delivery of the [Health and Wellbeing](#) curriculum in Scotland, in particular HWB 1-04a/05a/08a/10a. For schools in England, these activities will contribute to the delivery of [Personal, Social, Health and Economic education \(PSHE\)](#), particularly within the areas of healthy relationships and respecting differences.

These activities also contribute to the delivery of the [Personal and Social Development, Wellbeing and Cultural Diversity](#) area of learning for schools in Wales and [Personal Development and Mutual Understanding](#) outcomes around relationships and recognising similarities and differences for schools in Northern Ireland.

Relevant book section	Activity
Illustration of Something Else's house on page 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Pair/small group/class discussion<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ What does this house tell us about the character who lives there?</li><li>○ What do you think this character will be like?</li></ul></li></ul>
Illustration on page 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Thought bubbles activity<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Cover up the text on page 5 and ask the pupils to write thought bubbles for Something Else and 3 other characters to show what they think each character is thinking or feeling.</li></ul></li><li>• Pair/small group/class discussion<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ What do you think this picture tells us about Something Else?</li><li>○ What does it tell us about the other characters and how they see Something Else</li></ul></li></ul>

<p>Text on page 5</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “Sorry. You’re not like us. You’re something else. You don’t belong.”</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Feelings drawing task <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ How do you think this makes Something Else feel?</li> <li>○ Pupils asked to draw a picture of Something Else to show how he feels, including some words to describe his feelings.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Pair/small group/class discussion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ How do people feel when they are left out by others?</li> <li>○ How can we make sure that everyone is included in our school?</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p>Pages 6-9</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “Something Else did his best to look like the others...It was no good. He didn’t look like them or talk like them...”</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pair/small group/class discussion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Are your friends all exactly the same as you? Can you only be friends with people who are similar to you?</li> <li>○ Is it ok to judge people based on how they look? How would this make someone feel?</li> </ul> </li> <li>• What makes you “you” activity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Link to standalone activity on CF education webpages.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p>Pages 12-19 (Something meets Something for the first time)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cartoon task <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Ask pupils to think about the following question: how would you do things differently to Something Else in this scene?</li> <li>○ Ask pupils to draw a cartoon of how they would make Something feel welcome in their home or school.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p>Pages 22-23</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “From then on, Something Else had Something to be friends with.”</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Thought bubbles <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Cover up the text on pages 22-23 and ask the pupils to write thought bubbles to shown what Something Else and Something are thinking and feeling.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pair/small group/class discussion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ How do you know that Something Else and Something are now friends?</li> <li>○ “They were different, but they got along” – How are you different to your friends? Does being different to someone mean that you can’t get on with them?</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p>How have things changed for Something Else by the end of the story?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Drawing task <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Ask pupils to draw a picture to represent how Something Else feels <b>at the beginning</b> of the story.</li> <li>○ Then ask pupils to draw a picture to represent how Something Else feels <b>at the end</b> of the story.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Class discussion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ How have things changed for Something Else by the end of the story?</li> <li>○ What do you think the message of the story is?</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p>What happened next?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Story writing task <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Ask pupils to write a short story about what they imagine Something Else, Something and their new friend did next?</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p>Making sure that everyone is welcome at our school</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Class discussion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ How do we make sure that everyone is welcome at our school and that no-one is left out?</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Small group poster making task <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Ask pupils to make a poster that welcomes people to the school.</li> <li><b>OR</b></li> <li>○ Ask pupils to make a poster about why it is important to include everyone and not to judge people based on how they look.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>