

# My Friend with Autism

## WCBF 2-3

<p><b>Objective:</b> Students will begin to develop empathy by understanding some of the sensory issues a peer with autism may face.</p>	<p><b>IRP PLO(s) addressed:</b> Grade 2, English Language Arts C3: <i>create imaginative writing and representations, sometimes based on models they have read, heard, or viewed</i></p>
<p><b>Materials needed</b> ▪ <i>My Friend with Autism</i></p>	<p>Grade 3, English Language Arts C3: <i>create a variety of imaginative writing and representations following patterns modelled from literature</i></p>

		Teacher guide	Student guide
<b>Opening</b>	<b>Time</b> 3 min	<p>Show students the cover of <i>My Friend with Autism</i>.</p> <p>Explain that autism is a different way of thinking and experiencing the world. It can look different with every person.</p>	Students listen.
<b>Pre-Activity</b>	10 min	<p>Read <i>My Friend with Autism</i> stopping to let students know that not everyone with autism will have the same challenges as the character. For example, point out that the character doesn't talk much but this may not be the same for others with autism - some people with autism talk a lot and some do not talk; but everyone can communicate, they just might communicate differently such as using pictures or an iPad app.</p>	Students listen.
<b>Activity</b>	20 min	<p>Identify the senses and the strengths of the boy with autism in the book—generate a list on the board of things he is good at.</p> <p>Refer to the Friendship Superhero poster and explain how Pinkus helps others by being a good friend. Have students create a super-hero who has one of the super-senses listed on the board. What good will he/she do for our school/community/world with their super-sense? How will his super sense help others?</p>	<p>Students contribute to the list.</p> <p>Students draw and colour their super heroes.</p>
<b>Closure</b>	5 min	<p>Have the class share their superheroes. Explain that every one of us has different strengths and abilities that make us special and able to contribute to our world. Everyone can be a Friendship Superhero when you remember to do each of the five things.</p>	Students share their superheroes.

<p><b>Adaptations:</b> ⇒ Provide list of super-senses with visuals provided for each one.</p>
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**Reflection:** What went well? What needs to be changed for next time? What did I observe about my students? What would better facilitate my teaching of this topic? What needs to be considered for subsequent lessons on this topic?