Sweety
Written and Illustrated By: Andrea Zuill

Synopsis: Poor Sweety! She dances to a different drummer than all the other Naked Mole Rats! Her aunt says that she will “find her people”. Hmmm, I wonder if they have a secret handshake? Sweety finds that being the best you is very rewarding!

Suggested Reading Date: November 24th Unique Talent Day

Activity Descriptions:
- Create a matching game using idioms and their meanings – kids can write/draw on index cards
- Play the Unique Bingo – have the students go around and find someone do demonstrate their unique skill and sign the sheet!
- Grandma calls Sweety her “little Square Peg,” from the idiom “putting a square peg in a round hole.” Come up with other idioms and their meanings
- After reading Sweety, watch one of the videos about actual Naked Mole Rats – use a Venn Diagram to compare and contrast
- Create a secret hand shake with your people!
- Talk about how everyone’s normal is different than others, things that might be thought of as unusual or uninteresting.
- Pair this book with A Normal Pig by K-Fai Steele to discuss the ways in which people can be different and the same.

Related Websites:
- Idioms for Kids: https://examples.yourdictionary.com/idioms-for-kids.html
- Andrea Zuill’s Web Page (it is a little out of date): http://www.andreazuill.org/
- Unique Talent Day: https://www.timeanddate.com/holidays/fun/celebrate-your-unique-talent-day
- Nat Geo Kids Naked Mole Rat: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A5DcOEzW1wA
- Discovery News Naked Mole Rat: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CevtR3LOXC4
- How Do Naked Mole Rats Choose Their Queen?: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q9Yr_jE5pUE

Text to Text Connections:
My Best Friend is as Sharp as a Pencil by Hanoch Piven, Quick as a Cricket by Audrey Wood
A Normal Pig by K-Fai Steele, Naked Mole Rat Gets Dressed by Mo Willems, Stand Tall Molly Lou Melon by Pat Lovell, Woolbur by Leslie Helakoski, Big Hair, Don’t Care by Crystal Swain-Bates, Unicorn Thinks He’s Pretty Great by Bob Shea, Just Ask! by Sonia Sotomayor, Be You! by Peter Reynolds, Part of a Rainbow by Asaf Rozanes, It’s Okay to be Different by Todd Park, I like Me by Nancy Carlson, I Like Myself by Karen Beaumont

Created By: Amy Cook