

Sweety

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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”. Hmm, 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- Andrea Zuill’s Web Page (it is a little out of date): 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=CevtR3L0XC4>
- How Do Naked Mole Rats Choose Their Queen?: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q9Yr_jE5pUE
- *A Normal Pig* Activity: <https://jilannehoffmann.com/2019/07/26/sweety-perfect-picture-book-friday/>

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