



WHOEVER YOU ARE
BY MEM FOX



TIPS FOR THE READER

In this kit, you will find a wonderful children’s book and practical resources you can use to help a child develop important lifelong skills. Use these tips to engage the child in talking about the story, further developing vocabulary, comprehension and a love of reading. Finally, use the provided materials and **Activity Instructions** to extend and practice new skills.

WHOEVER YOU ARE BY MEM FOX

“Little one, whoever you are, wherever you are, there are little ones just like you all over the world.” So begins Australian author Mem Fox’s joyful picture book, *Whoever You Are*, a celebration of the world’s diverse cultures and their similarities and differences. The book is available in both English and Spanish.

Themes covered: diversity, similarities, differences, cultures

Skills developed: classification, colors, vocabulary, word recognition, counting, fine motor skills

Verbal Prompts

Before reading...

- * Show children the front cover of the book.
- * Read the name of the book and the author and illustrator.
- * Ask them what they see on the cover. Ask what they notice about the children. What is the same about the children? What is different?

While reading...

- * Ask the children to pay attention to the pictures of children in the book and point out a child’s picture that looks like them.
- * Give children time to notice the similarities and differences in each image.
- * Ask questions throughout such as: What are some different kinds of houses? How is the school in the picture different from yours? What do you see in the picture of the “lands” that is different from where we live?

After reading, ask...

- * In what ways are children around the world different?
- * In what ways are children around the world the same?
- * What are some differences among the children in this class?
- * What are some similarities among you?



PROP/PUZZLE/GAME 1 PREPARATION INSTRUCTIONS

SORTING AND COUNTING EYES

Help children extend learning with this sorting activity!

Supplies You'll Need

- Our Eyes template
- Poster board or flip chart paper (optional if creating a kit for a preschool classroom)
- Blank eye template
- Glue sticks
- Mirror
- Crayons
- Adult scissors
- Large plastic bag(s) or other container

Kit Assembly Instructions

1. Replicate the Our Eyes template on poster board or flip chart paper. Simply make a copy of it if you're doing the activity with one or two children.
2. Cut out each rectangle of the blank (black and white) eye template.
3. Include the book and **Tips for the Reader** in the kit.

Our Eyes Template

Blue



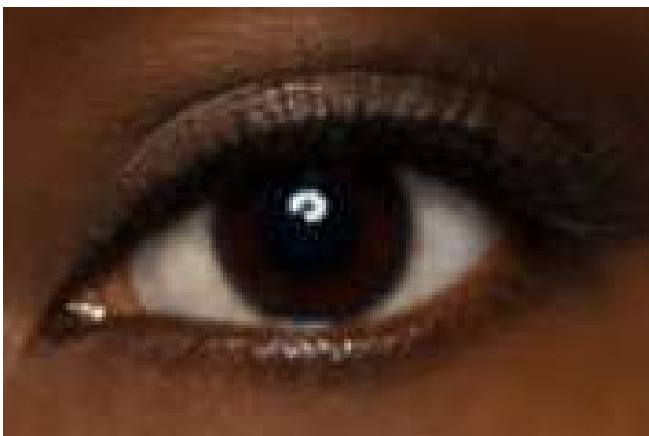
Brown



Green



Black

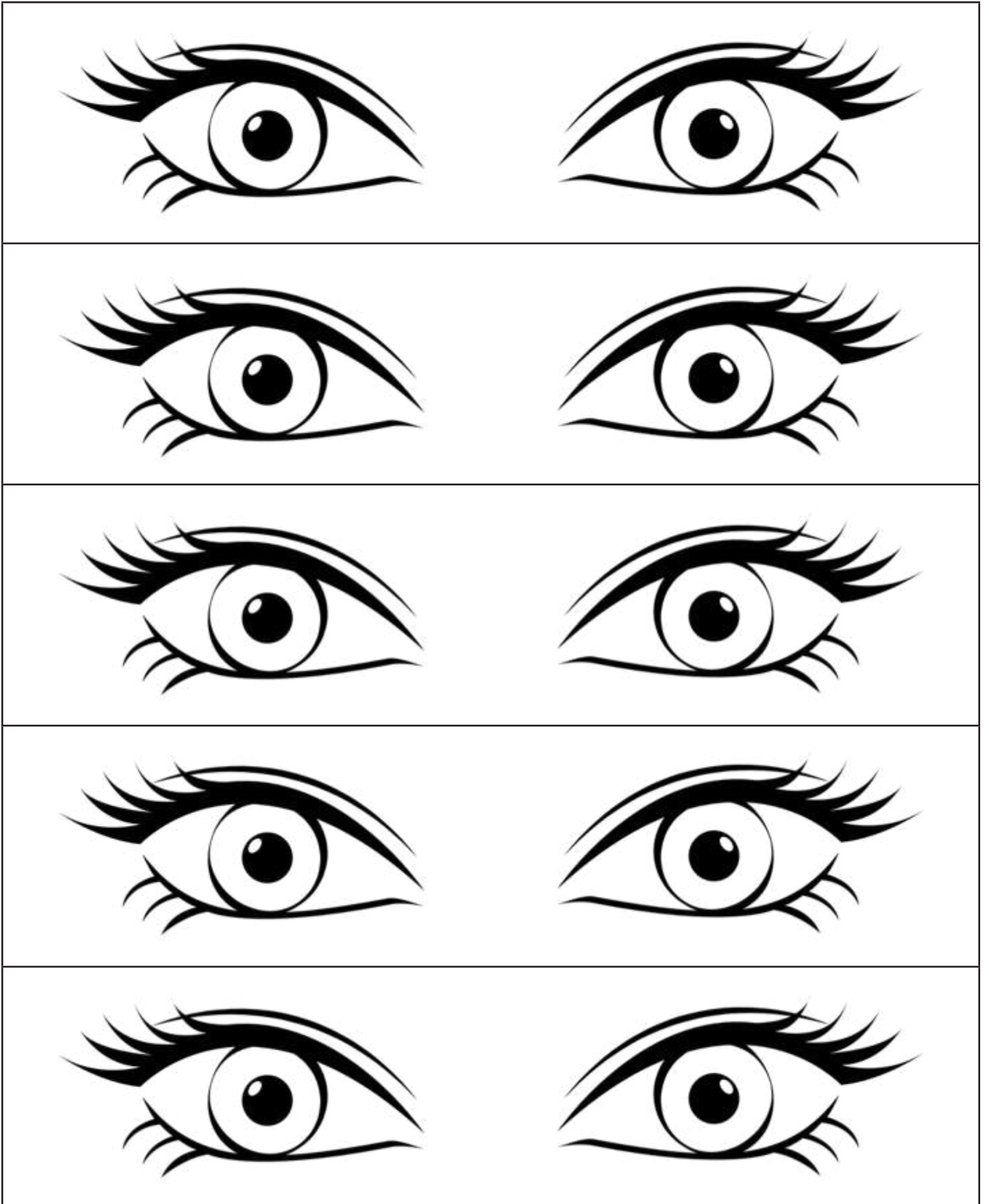


Hazel



PROP/PUZZLE/GAME 1

TEMPLATE





PROP/PUZZLE/GAME 1 **ACTIVITY INSTRUCTIONS**

SORTING AND COUNTING EYES

Help children extend learning with this sorting activity!

Follow These Steps

1. Give children a copy of the eye template and crayons.
2. Ask them to color the uncolored eyes the same color as their eyes. Let them know you have a mirror if they want to look at their eyes to see the color.
3. Ask them to write their name on their strips of paper. Offer to help if needed. If you are doing the activity with one or two children, ask them to color additional pairs of eyes that match friends and family.
4. Once they finish coloring, let them glue their picture on the appropriate row on the Our Eyes poster/paper. When they are finished, talk with them about the eyes. Let them count the eyes in each row and write the number in the row. Ask which row has the most and the least.
5. Explain that while we may have different colored eyes, they all serve the same purpose. Ask: What do we all use our eyes for?



PROP/PUZZLE/GAME 2 **PREPARATION INSTRUCTIONS**

ALIKE AND NOT ALIKE

Help children deepen understanding with this similar/different activity!

Supplies You'll Need

- Template
- Flip chart paper
- Markers
- Large plastic bag(s) or other container

Kit Assembly Instructions

Include the book and **Tips for the Reader** in the kit.

PROP/PUZZLE/GAME 2

TEMPLATE

	Alike	Not Alike
Favorite Food?		
Favorite Game?		
Favorite Animal?		
Brown Hair?		
Pet Dog?		
Pet Cat?		
Brother?		
Sister?		
Sometimes feel happy?		
Sometimes feel sad?		



PROP/PUZZLE/GAME 2

ACTIVITY INSTRUCTIONS

ALIKE AND NOT ALIKE

Help children deepen understanding with this similar/different activity!

Follow These Steps

1. Set up your flipchart paper as shown in the example.
2. Sit in a circle with the children.
3. Let the children know you're going to make a list of things that are different and the same about everyone in the class.
4. Pick one child and ask "What is your favorite food?" Ask the rest of the children to stand up if it is also their favorite food. Count the number of children standing (with the class) and write the number in the "Alike" column. Ask those children to sit down and have the other children stand up. Count them together and write the total number in the "Not Alike" column. Let the children standing up name their favorite foods.
5. Repeat the process with the following questions:
 - What game do you like to play the most?
 - What animal is your favorite?
 - Who has brown hair?
 - Who has a dog for a pet?
 - Who has a cat for a pet?
 - Who has a brother? A sister?
6. Who feels happy sometimes? Who feels sad sometimes? All the children will stand up for these questions.
7. Review the chart and comment on how they are just like the children in the book. While there are some things about them that are different, they all have the same feelings.



TAKE HOME ACTIVITY KIT 1

PREPARATION INSTRUCTIONS

COLORS AND SHAPES (AGES 0-2)

Help promote learning for younger siblings with this color/shape activity!

Supplies You'll Need

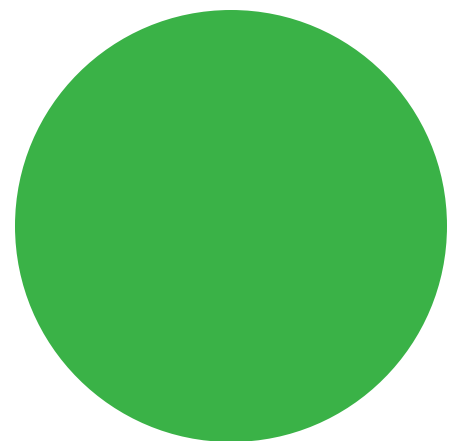
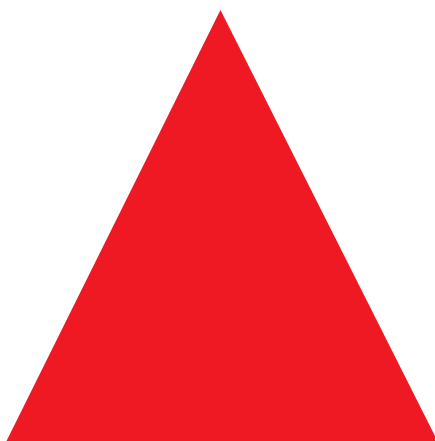
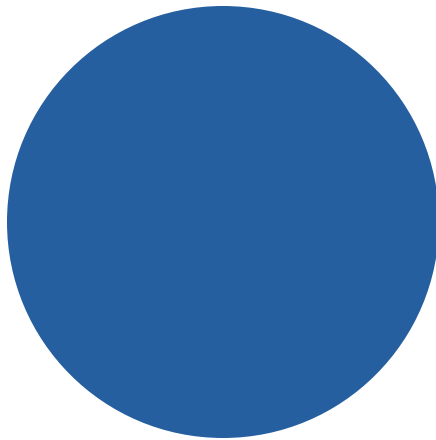
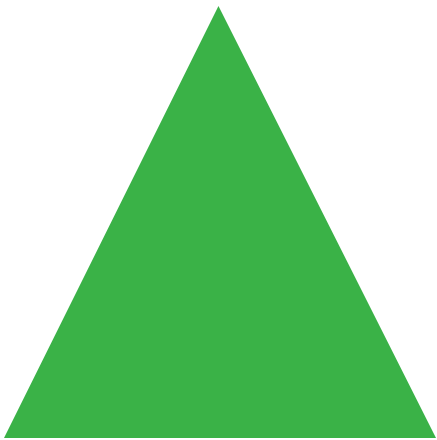
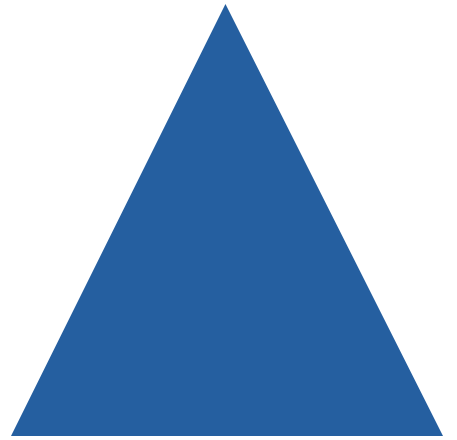
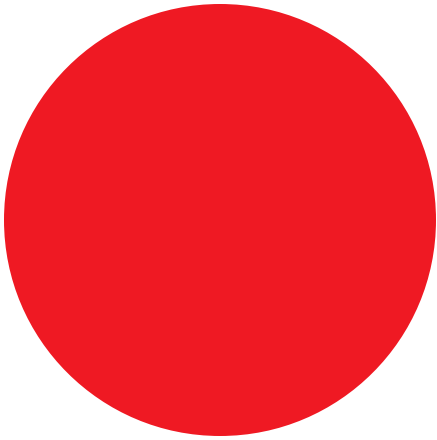
- Template
- Folder or envelope for kit sheets

Kit Assembly Instructions

1. Make a copy of the template for each child.
2. Include the book and **Tips for the Reader** in the kit.

TAKE HOME ACTIVITY KIT 1

TEMPLATE





TAKE HOME ACTIVITY KIT 1

ACTIVITY INSTRUCTIONS

COLORS AND SHAPES (AGES 0-2)

Help promote learning for younger siblings with this color/shape activity!

Follow These Steps

1. Ask your toddler to point out the red items, then the blue items, then the green items. Each time say, “these are the same color.”
2. Then ask them to point out all the squares, then all the circles, then all the triangles. Each time say, “these are the same shape.”
3. Play “I Spy” with your child. I spy something red. Do you?

You can play I Spy at home, during dinner, in the car, at the store—everywhere.



TAKE HOME ACTIVITY KIT 2

PREPARATION INSTRUCTIONS

FEELING FACES AND WORDS

Help children learn to recognize facial expressions and learn words for feelings with this activity!

Supplies You'll Need

- Template
- Pencils, crayons, or washable markers
- Plastic bag(s) or other container

Kit Assembly Instructions

1. Make a copy of the template for each child.
2. Include the book and **Tips for the Reader** in the kit.

TAKE HOME ACTIVITY KIT 2

TEMPLATE





TAKE HOME ACTIVITY KIT 2

ACTIVITY INSTRUCTIONS

FEELING FACES AND WORDS

Help children learn to recognize facial expressions and learn words for feelings with this activity!

Follow These Steps

Ask the child to write the feeling that matches each picture: either happy, sad, or angry. If needed, write the word for the child to copy or trace.