

Reading B



Including All My Friends

I like to play with all my friends
They like to play with me
We play games like hide and seek
And climb the backyard tree

We run and jump and ride our bikes
And play the whole day through
And when a new friend comes around
We let them join us too

Some bad guys came to bother us
And we knew what they would say
Bad words about our skin or hair
Or how we talk and play

We didn't want to hear their words.
We know that they're not right
There so much more to all of us
If we use more than our sight



We all have different skin and eyes
We all have different hair
Some need a special tube to breathe
Some need a special chair

But really we are all the same
We play, we laugh, we sleep
The mean guys had it wrong because
They only look skin-deep.

Randy Bassett

About the author

Randy Bassett and his wife Susan are co-founders of “Opening Hearts”. Motivated by their own children, they work tirelessly to help improve the lives of children with special needs and their families. They received local and provisional awards for their efforts.

Meanings in context

backyard	an area at the back of a house
guys	word use to address a group of boys or girls
special tube	apparatus used by people who have problem in breathing
hide and seek	<i>Luka chhippi or chuppa chhupayi</i>
Skin-deep	not very deep

Comprehension

1. Tick (✓) the correct alternative.

- i. ‘I like to play with my friends they like to play with me’. Who are ‘I’ and ‘my friends’?



- a. Poet and his relatives
 - b. A disabled child and his friends
 - c. The boy and his classmates
- ii. What did the bad guys do?
- a. Played and talked to us
 - b. Said bad words about us
 - c. Said that they're our friends
- iii. Why are we all the same?
- a. we all look alike
 - b. we are all playing
 - c. we all are human beings

2. Tick (✓) the correct statements about the poem. You may choose more than one option.

- a. Everyone should be treated alike.
- b. Some people need special care.
- c. New friends are not allowed in the play.
- d. All children have the same kind of hair and skin.
- e. There is more than what we can see.
- f. Mean people see differences in children.

3. Who are the 'bad guys' mentioned in the poem? Why are they called 'bad guys'?

4. List the things the 'bad guys' bother the children about?

5. What can we understand 'if we use more than our sight.' ?

6. Why do you think these lines have been spoken?

- We didn't want to hear their words.
- We know that they're not right
- Some need a special tube to breathe
- If we use more than our sight
- They only look skin deep.

