

# *Rules*

by Cynthia Lord

“No toys in the fish tank!”

# Pre-Reading Writing & Discussion Questions

- What was your winter break like? Use plenty of adjectives!
- How did you spend your days?
- Maybe you went somewhere fun and exciting. Maybe you relaxed and stayed home.
- Describe in vivid, colorful detail!

# Think, Pair, Share

- Count off by 2's.
- Share what you wrote with your partner.
- Back to whole group.
- While you were sharing, did you notice yourself adding more than what you had wrote?
- If so, take a few minutes to include at the bottom of your paper what you initially left out!



# From the Author, Cynthia Lord

“I wrote RULES to explore some of my own questions about living with someone who sees the world so differently than I do, but also to show a full experience of family life with a child with autism: the happy moments, the heartbreaking ones, the ones that make me laugh.”



# Throughout this Novel...

- You will:
  - Learn more about differences
  - Explore and research the meaning of “special needs” including autism spectrum disorder
  - Discover your own differences that make you... *you!*
  - Appreciate others’ differences that make them unique!

# Discussing Differences...

# “Kids Who Are Different”

Here's to the kids who are  
different,  
The kids who don't always  
get A's,  
The kids who have ears  
twice the size of their  
peers',  
And noses that go on for  
days...

Here's to the kids who are  
different,  
The kids they call crazy or  
dumb,  
The kids who don't fit,  
with the guts and the grit,  
Who dance to a different  
drum...

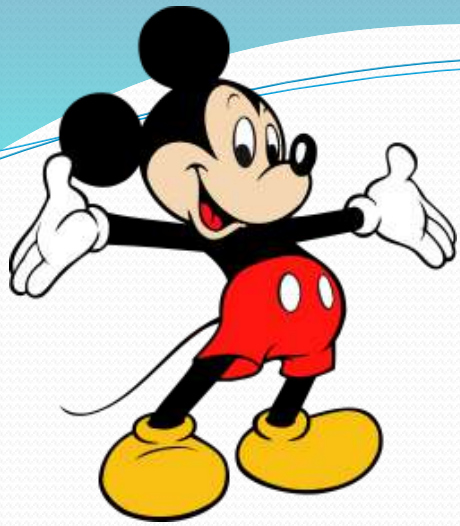
Here's to the kids who are  
different,  
The kids with the  
mischievous streak,  
For when they have grown,  
as history's shown,  
It's their difference that  
makes them unique...  
by Digby Wolfe



# Pre-Reading Autism Q's

- What does it mean to have special needs?
- Describe a personal situation or experience between you and a special needs person.





## Walt Disney Quote

“We keep moving forward, opening up new doors, and doing new things, because we're curious... and curiosity keeps leading us down new paths.”

\*\*\*What does this mean?\*\*\*

# Walt Disney & Dyslexia



- Dyslexia presents a struggle to read
- The brain is wired differently; some parts that have to do with reading may have a few glitches while other parts may work especially well.
- “Dyslexic children and adults usually excel at problem solving, reasoning, seeing the big picture, and thinking outside of the box (The Yale Center for Dyslexia and Creativity).”
- Kind of sounds like the man who created Mickey Mouse...



# Speaking of Differences...

## Ever Hear of '*The Peanut Gallery*'?

- Or maybe you've just heard of Charlie Brown and Snoopy. Or Linus and Lucy. Or Peppermint Patty, Pigpen, Sally, and Schroeder. Or at least Woodstock.
- Charlie Brown was created by Charles Schulz.
- In 2009 when Schulz died, he was worth \$35 million. That's \$35,000,000. Most people will be *lucky* to reach to the hundredth thousands place in their life. That's this spot ---> 35,000,000
- But... Charlie Brown almost didn't exist.



# Read-Aloud

- “Sparky” from Chicken Soup for the Teenage Soul
- Learning disability? ...quite possibly!



# Physical Differences

- Have you ever noticed someone with a physical difference?
- Maybe they were missing an arm or leg. A hand or finger. Maybe they were deaf or blind.
- What is your reaction to noticeable differences?

# Up Close...

Sometimes people that have a physical difference, known as a “physical *disability*,” are able to accomplish more than we could, even if we *didn't* have the disability.



# Bethany Hamilton -



- Lost an arm to a shark attack in Hawaii
- Lost over 60% of her blood when it happened and survived several surgeries without infection
- Doctors called her a “living miracle”
- She’s one of the world’s top pro surfers



Bethany Hamilton with AnnaSophia Robb (left) who starred as the pro surfer in *Soul Surfer*

# We Could Keep Going But...

- The list of people, famous or not, is endless whom have disabilities – something we categorize as “differences from the normal” – and have accomplished so much more in their lives than many “normal” people ever will.
- Discussion Question: How do you view normal?
- *“Each one of you has something no one else has, or has ever had: your fingerprints, your brain, your heart. Be an individual. Be unique. Stand out. Make noise. Make someone notice. That’s the power of individuals.”*  
– Bon Jovi

# “Being Normal” – Concept, Reality, or Just a Definition?

- It's a burning question in our society.
- Everyone wants to *fit* in but why fit in... when you were born to stand out?
- In our classroom... it is a RULE that we accept, acknowledge, and even admire each other's differences. It's what makes us unique and special apart from one another. I'm not the same as you as you are not the same as me.
- In your life, it is my hope that you embrace this rule and embrace other's differences.
- With that being said...

# Being Different Together

Our Class  
Motto!



# Day #2: Research Findings

- What is autism?
- What are some traits, or symptoms, of autism?
- How early can parents detect autism?
- What causes autism?
- Is there a cure for autism?
- Explain what it means by “spectrum disorder.”  
Are there many levels of autism? Why or Why not?

# So, Now What?

- In your own words, on the bottom of your homework sheet, tell which statement you agree with and back it up with your thoughts, feelings, and personal statements. There is no right or wrong answer. This is an opinion question but your opinion is stronger the more you back it up.
- Statement #1: Differences and special needs really aren't that different from one another. Both make you unique.
- Statement #2: Differences make you who you are while special needs do not define who you are.

**Think,  
Pair,  
Share**

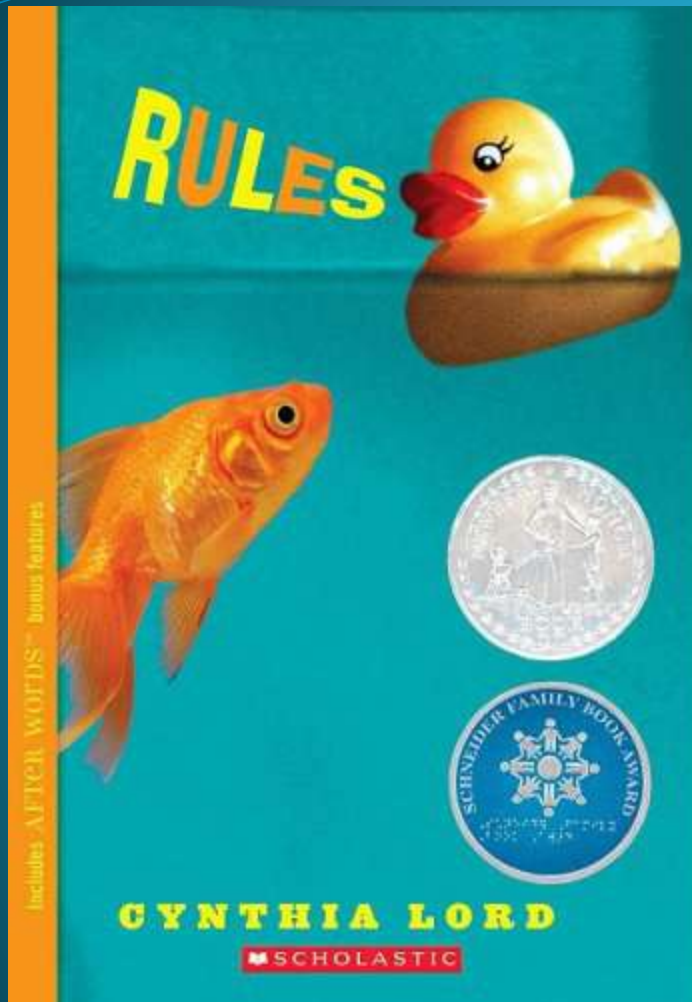


# #1 Journal Entry

## (Before Chapter 1)



- What are the everyday rules in your own household?  
Minimum of 5!
- Compose your own rule to allow you to tactfully leave quickly if you ever got into a sticky situation.
- What does tactfully mean?
  - adj. – having tact
- What is tact?
  - n. a sense of what is fitting and considerate in dealing with others, so as to avoid giving offence or to win good will



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## Chapter 1 “Follow the Rules”

# Chapter 1 Discussion Questions

P.S. I will NOT always give you the page #'s!

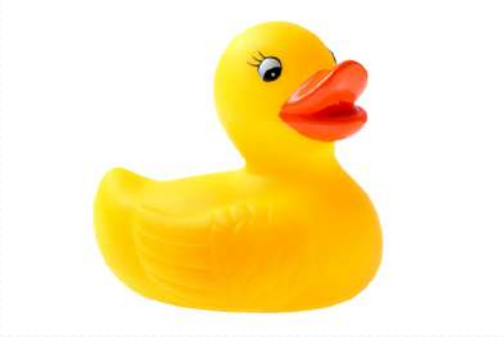
- Where are David's favorite places? (pg. 2)
- How does Catherine feel when she sees a moving van next door? (pg. 5)
- What does she tell David the rule is for leaving a situation? (pg. 8)

# #2 Journal Entry

(After Reading Chapter 1)

- If you were able to write a set of rules for your younger brother or sister (or older sibling if you have no younger siblings), what would they be? The rules need to relate to the person's behavior! Think of 3-5.
- For example, Catherine has made a rule for David saying, "If someone says 'hi,' you say 'hi' back. Why has she made this rule for her younger brother?"
- Close your eyes for a few minutes and think about it before you start writing.

# HOMEWORK:



Finish your set of rules. The rules must relate to your sibling's behavior! They must also be relevant and appropriate. Put some thought into it. This IS for a grade!

You will eventually be finalizing a copy of your set of rules that will be posted for ALL TO SEE! :)