

CATCH a spark!

Using children's literature to SPARK CREATIVITY



How to Build a Hug

Written by Amy Guglielmo / Illustrated by Giselle Potter
96 pages / Grades 2 - 5

All grade levels will take something away from this real story about Temple Grandin, a celebrated scientist and autism advocate who inspires others to acknowledge and embrace what makes each person different and unique.

C

Context

Temple Grandin is known around the world for her work and advocacy for awareness of autism. Being a person with autism herself, Temple has learned how to use her own experiences to **celebrate** and **acknowledge** the ways in which she is **different from others**, a skill we could all learn from.

It is through seeing what other people enjoy and wanting a similar experience that Temple uses her own creativity and **design thinking** capabilities to create her own comforts.

A

Arts

Giselle Potter is a celebrated children's author, having illustrated numerous books. Her **style** is uniquely her own - a bit of folk art, a bit childlike and whimsical, yet always captivating. What is it about this artist, whose work is a bit different, that aligns so nicely with the story of Temple Grandin?

Temple Grandin **thinks in pictures**. What would that be like. Discuss creativity. How do students think? Do some see words in their head? Pictures? Both?

T

Themes

Embracing your unique self.

Finding ways to solve problems that work for you / alternate solutions.

Accepting and tolerating other's different learning and living styles.

Creative thinking

Understanding others

Being self-sufficient

C

Create

Think about something you do not like that everyone else you know does like. Try to recognize WHY you don't like it.

Can you create/ design/build something to let you experience it in a way that would work for you? Celebrate this part of you - don't hide it!

Think of an abstract concept (like a hug). Create a list of "definitions" for it as you try to understand what it really means. Turn this into a poem. Uses pages 12-13 as examples.

H

Heart Words

Author's Note: *"I use my mind to solve problems and invent things - Temple Grandin"*

Last page: *"I'm into hugging people now."*

pgs 30-31: *"It's a snuggle apparatus... It's a hug machine."*

