

## International Literacy Day September 8

### Global Themes

- Images and Perception
- Social Justice

### Overview and Purpose

This lesson is designed to teach children about International Literacy Day and the specific right of children highlighted by this UN Day; their right to a good quality education (CRC Article 28).

### Background Information for Teachers

United Nations International Literacy Day

[un.org/depts/dhl/literacy/index.html](http://un.org/depts/dhl/literacy/index.html)

UNESCO

[unesco.org/en/literacy/advocacy/international-literacy-day/](http://unesco.org/en/literacy/advocacy/international-literacy-day/)

### Grades

4 – 8

### Materials

Book entitled *A School Like Mine* by DK Publishing, UNICEF

Book Venn diagram (printable copy attached)

Student description cards (to be developed by the teacher)

### Activity One

- Begin by introducing September 8<sup>th</sup> as International Literacy Day; a UN Day celebrated around the world.
- Read aloud from the book entitled *A School Like Mine* by DK Publishing, UNICEF.
- Discuss the right of every child to a good quality education (CRC Article 28) in relation to the book. Ask the students to brainstorm what a “quality education” means.
- Divide the class into small groups. Ask them to create a list that completes the statements: “We know our school is a school because it has ...” and “We know our school is a school because it is ...”
- Ask each group to share its list with the class.
- Give each student a “student” card; each card describes a student from *A School Like Mine*.
- Using the Book Venn diagram, ask the students to list the similarities and differences between their education and the education of the student on their card.
- Have the students pair up and compare what they learned with their peers. Have the students discuss their initial answers to the statements above. Have they changed? If so, how?

### Activity Two

- Tell the students to imagine that they will be pen pals with the student they just learned about.
- Ask the students to write a letter to their “imaginary” pen pal. The students can use the Venn diagram as a starter to write about what they learned. Students can also write about a common day in their life (school, home, activities).
- Post the letters on the bulletin board; allow the students time to read their peers’ letters.

### Discussion

Even though schools all around the world may look different, they can also be very much the same. What do you think this means?

### Extension

Research how UNICEF is supporting children around the world through Child Friendly Schools. Visit UNICEF’s Voices of Youth to share your views on education around the world.

[unicef.org/voy/explore/education/712\\_737.html](http://unicef.org/voy/explore/education/712_737.html)

### Additional Resources

Book entitled *My Librarian is a Camel* by Magriet Ruurs

## A School Like Mine Venn Diagram

