

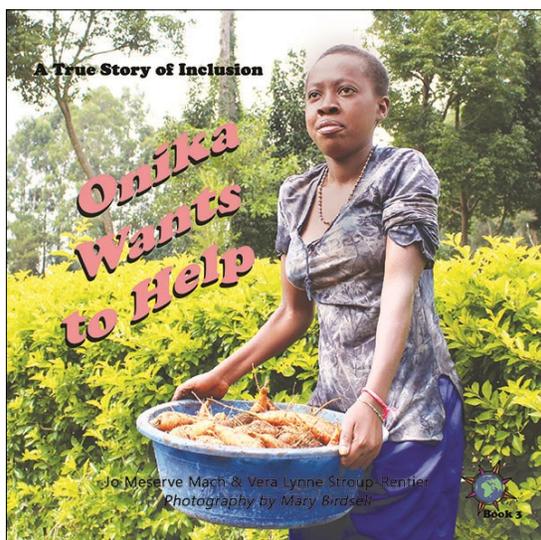
Finding My Way Books

Celebrating children with disabilities by sharing their stories!

Onika Wants to Help

Nonfiction Readers Theater Script

A social emotional learning activity promoting inclusion, cooperation, acceptance and participation through a play based on the book, Onika Wants to Help. Onika has intellectual disabilities.



Inclusive Education Activity

Interest Level Pre-K-3
GRL: J

Onika Wants to Help: Reader's Theater Script

Roles: Narrator, Onika, Valentine, builders, Teo, Elibeth, Agnes (Two or more students could share *Narrator role.*)

Props: Rainbow School sign, hoe, watering can, bucket, carrots, two bowls of rice, art area, string, beads

Settings: school, garden, kitchen, art room

NARRATOR: This is a story about Onika who lives in Africa.

She lives in a rainforest in the mountains.

She lives in a small village in Tanzania.

ONIKA: My name is Onika. (*Onika stands by Valentine who is doing schoolwork.*)

I like bold colors. I like pretty things.

When I was a little girl like Valentine, I didn't go to school.

I learn differently from other children.

Adults in my village thought I should stay at home.

I didn't get to be part of my village.

NARRATOR: As Onika grew older, everything changed. (*Builders make school with Rainbow School sign.*)

The villagers built a new school.

They built it for children who learned differently, like Onika.

In the morning, the students at school do schoolwork.

In the afternoons, they learn to do different jobs.

Let's meet some of Onika's friends from school.

TEO: My name is Teo. (*Teo is working in a garden.*)

I love to work in the garden.

I have a talent for growing vegetables.

NARRATOR: Teo likes to use a hoe.

He likes to get the dirt ready to plant.

He thinks it's fun to plant seeds.

He likes to get water for the plants.

TEO: I'm learning to take care of plants.

I grow carrots, cabbage, spinach, garlic, and green peppers in the garden.

ONIKA: *(Onika and Teo work together in the garden. Onika collects carrots.)*

I like to help Teo gather carrots.

It's fun to work together.

But this isn't my talent.

There's something else I love to do.

NARRATOR: What do you think Onika loves to do?

What do you think is Onika's talent?

Let's meet more of Onika's friends.

NARRATOR: Elibeth and Agnes love to prepare food. *(Elibeth and Agnes sit with bowls of rice.)*

They have a talent for cooking.

They buy rice from the market.

Then, they search for dirt on the rice.

AGNES: My name is Agnes.

I think it's fun to swish the rice in the bowl.

ELIBETH: My name is Elibeth.

I like to clean the rice.

NARRATOR: Elibeth and Agnes are learning to prepare food.

While they work, they talk and laugh.

ONIKA: Sometimes, I help Elibeth and Agnes. *(Onika washes carrots in the bucket.)*

It's fun to work together.

But this is not my talent. There's something else I love to do.

NARRATOR: What do you think Onika loves to do?

What do you think is Onika's talent?

She likes to help in the garden.

She likes to help prepare food.

But she loves to do something else.

(Again, the Narrator asks audience to guess what Onika loves to do.)

ONIKA: This is the art room. *(Onika sits at a desk with beading supplies.)*

This is where I like to be.

I love working with beads!

My talent is making jewelry. *(Onika works on a beaded necklace.)*

NARRATOR: Onika loves all the colors.

She gets to pick the beads she wants to use.

She scoops up the beads.

She has to be very careful.

She has to look closely as she works.

ONIKA: *(Onika shows the pattern of the necklace she is making.)*

I love to show how different colors go together.

NARRATOR: The school sells the jewelry Onika makes.

The money helps their school buy supplies.

ONIKA: I'm learning how I can help our village. *(Onika holds up the finished necklace.)*

Someday, I will make money for our village by selling my necklaces.

TEO: I am learning how I can help our village. *(Teo stands with his hoe and watering can.)*

Someday, I will grow plants for our village.

ELIBETH: We are learning to help our village. *(Elibeth and Agnes stand with their bowls of rice.)*

AGNES: Someday, we will help prepare food for our village.

NARRATOR: *(Onika, Teo, Elibeth, and Agnes stand in front of the Rainbow School sign.)*

Onika and her friends are very happy.

They are learning to help their village.

They are thankful for their school.

Their school helped them find their talents.