

THE boy who was different

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Illustrated by Richard Gunther



It is important to be caring and to respect other people's culture and values. We can learn so much from them. Everyone needs a friend.



The Chief of a tropical island had a baby boy. He held him up to God. "I pray my son will grow up to love you and to be a good Chief. I will call him Suli, which means "Strong for God."



Suli was only a boy when he burnt his face. The people of his village all worked very hard, growing bananas to sell, so they could pay to send Suli away for an operation in another country.



Suli would be going to school in the new country too. But the children were not kind, because he was different. They laughed at him and called him names. "Silly Suli! Ugly face!" they yelled.



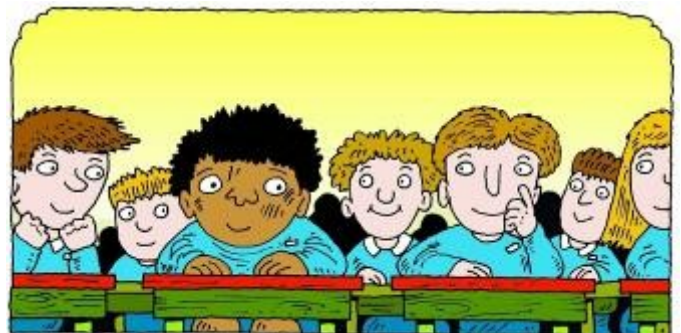
Suli felt all alone and asked God to help him be brave. He thought about his family at home, praying for him and remembered how hard they had all worked to get enough money for his operation.



Suli told the class the meaning of his special name and about his father, the great Chief. "I have a pet monkey," he said. Everyone wished they had a pet monkey, like Suli.



He sang Greedy Monkey song and did a monkey dance. The children laughed and clapped! No one noticed that Suli was different any more. He was just a boy like them and he was clever too!



The teacher talked to the class about being inclusive. They learnt how important it is to know, understand and accept people from different cultures and those who look, or act, differently. Everyone needs a friend.