

Title: All Children Have the Right to Go to School

Content Area:  
Social Studies

NC SCOS or Common Core Objective(s):  
5.C&G.2 Analyze life in a democratic republic through the rights and responsibilities of citizens.

Rationale/Relationship to Text:

Before the year 1975, children in our country who had disabilities like David and Jason were often turned away from school and sent home to stay with their parents. So they grew up to be adults without an education. Some individuals with disabilities came to school, but simply had a hard time because they were so different. For children with autism, like David, who clearly need extra attention, the schools did not have small classes or teachers trained to teach him. You might be able to imagine having David in your class when you were in third grade. You might imagine that Jason would have had a hard time as well, especially if his wheelchair would not go through doors or up the steps.

A special law for education for people with disabilities was passed under President Gerald Ford in 1975. It gave the right for every individual in our country to receive a free and appropriate education, regardless of disability. Children with learning differences now do come to school and is up to the school to provide what each child needs so he can learn.

This act is called Public Law 94-142.

People with all kinds of differences are included and have a right to education.

Activity: Assume that the year is 1976. Jason is 13 years old. He has never been to school.

Now it is time for Jason to attend school as PL 94-142 has just been passed. Jason cannot walk or talk. He understands conversations and can read words. He makes some rather strange sounds. The other students have never had a person with a disability in their school before. The teacher is a little worried, but she will try to make Jason welcome, of course.. But here he is...first day at school and already 13 years old. He is feeling nervous.

Ask the students to make a small graphic story depicting how they might imagine Jason's

very first day in school.

This can be like cartoon sequences. Use large paper folded to make four or eight scenes for the story. Students can use a pencil or colored pencils if they like.

There are bookmaking ideas online if you want the activity to be more like a graphic novel...perhaps 8 pages.

- [Make A Children's Book | CreateSpace.com](#)
- [www.CreateSpace.com](http://www.CreateSpace.com)
- Editing, Marketing and Design Plans Help You Publish Your Book Today!
- [Bookmaking With Kids](#)
- [bookmakingwithkids.com](http://bookmakingwithkids.com)
- Check out Jennifer Kennard's inspiring Letterology blog for a lovely series of winter- and holiday-inspired posts, with lots of colorful images.
- [Bookmaking With Children: Accordion Books - Bird and Little Bird](#)
- [birdandlittlebird.typepad.com/blog/2009/07/bookmaking-with-children...](http://birdandlittlebird.typepad.com/blog/2009/07/bookmaking-with-children...)
- Jul 24, 2009 · For the last couple of years, the school where I was teaching had an arts integration focus where we looking at creative ways to integrate art and writing ...
- [Making Books](#)
- [www.makingbooks.com](http://www.makingbooks.com)
- Teaching tips, free projects, and extensive resources for teachers, parents, and **children** from author, artist, and educator Susan Kapuscinski Gaylord

References:

Lord, C. (2006). *Rules*. New York: Scholastic.

<http://www.secretary.state.nc.us/kidspg/>

<http://www.lawforkids.org/>