

HELLO UNIVERSE (FOR SPECIAL ED)

2020

Newberry Medal Winner

44 activities

5 questions/
2 chapters



Special Needs for Special Kids





These novel units are something I created and started using in my classroom. I had students with significant challenges and most were **non-readers**. They were the best thing I ever did, and my students LOVED them.

Table of Contents

Worksheet pages	Title	Chapter
6-7	Suggestions for use	
8	Story board	
9	Title and Author	
10-11	Finish the simile	1
12	Nightmares vs dreams	2
13-14	Sorting sports equipment vs instruments	3
15	What is your Zodiac sign?	4
16-17	Nicknames	5
18-19	Insults vs compliments	6

Table of Contents

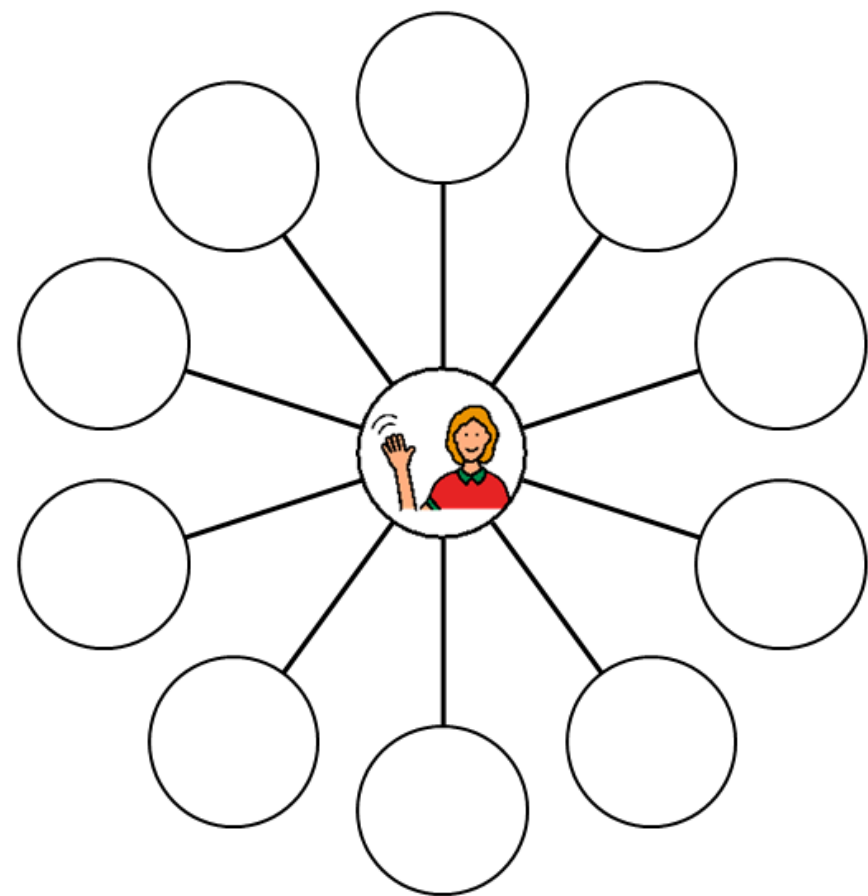
Worksheet pages	Title	Chapter
20-21	Place that are dark vs well lit	
22-23	Reading a business card	
24	Saying hello	
25-27	Things in a grocery store	
28	Causes of deafness	
29-31	Things that are red	
32-33	Asking and answering questions	
34-36	Things about snakes	
37-39	Make a constellation	
40-42	Things to feed a dog	
43-45	Signs of a bully	16
46-47	How to rescue someone	17
48-50	Things in the forest	18
51-53	Ways people communicate	19
54	Ways to call for help	20
55-57	What do squirrels eat?	21
58-59	I can calm down	22
60-62	Things people worry about	23
63	Reading non-verbal cues	24
64	What does destiny mean?	25
65-67	Common fears	26
68	Color the pictures where someone is alone	27
69-71	Being brave	28
72-73	How to introduce yourself	29
74-75	Poisonous and not poisonous animals	30
76-77	Where to find lost items	31
78-79	Things that make people cry	32
80-81	How to treat a snake bite	33
82-83	What could you use as a replacement?	34

Table of Contents

Worksheet pages	Title	Chapter
84-85	What is ok and not ok to keep secret	35
86-87	What is a regret?	36
88-90	Things about fire	37
91-92	Good vs bad luck	38
93	Saying thank you	39
94	What is coincidence mean?	
95-97	Taking care of a dog	
98	Ways to say hello	
99-101	Additional novel units	

This novel unit has 49 different activities. These activities are NOT comprehension-based. So, even if your students do not pay attention, they can still complete the activity.

What are some different ways people say hello?



For example, in this activity students will fill in a graphic organizer showing lots of ways people can say hello. This is an errorless activity.

Suggestions for Use

- I made this unit to go along with the book, *Hello Universe* by Erin Entrada Kelly.
- The thought is that you would be reading it aloud to your class at a rate of about 1-2 chapters per day.
- Be sure to give each student their own copy of the story board (pg. 8) to use while reading and discussing the story.
- Benefits of reading out loud, even to classes made up of severely affected students:
 - Teaches students to sit quietly even when there isn't something for them to do. This is such an important life skill. We all have to spend time sitting and listening to someone we are not that interested in at some point.
 - Parents will LOVE you. Not only will they be excited their child is being exposed to age appropriate material, but you are teaching them how to sit quietly, which will hopefully transfer to home as well.
 - Even with your lowest level learners, you will have 1 or 2 that will truly enjoy the story.
 - It can be a calming experience to sit and listen to the teacher read in a methodical way.

Suggestions for Use

- For students who need more structure, place a number of post-it notes in front of him/her that corresponds to the number of pages you will read. Remove a post-it as you finish each chapter. This visual will help lessen their anxiety.
- You will find 2 or more activities for each chapter. Students will still have plenty to choose from and find what fit best with your students.
- Differentiation:
 - For any activity, you can quickly differentiate for your lower level learners by using a color coding technique.
 - If sorting, outline each sorting category a certain color and then outline the corresponding pictures the same color.
 - Becomes a matching task.
- This unit does include comprehension questions in a separate file. There are 5 multiple choice questions for each chapter. An answer key is included.

Suggestions on how I found this activity worked best in my classroom are provided. I typically had 6-8 students with one adult assistant in the room with me.

Hello Universe

Novel Unit for Special Education

By
Christa Joy
Special Needs for Special Kids



*This entire novel unit
comes in 2 separate files.
One is completely in color
and one is completely in
black and white.*



This unit comes with a vocabulary board.

Vocabulary boards are great for ALL students to assist with participation and engagement in group discussions.

Tips on how to use in the unit!!

What are some things you think you might find in a grocery store?

Errorless version

Put the items below in the circle map on the previous page.



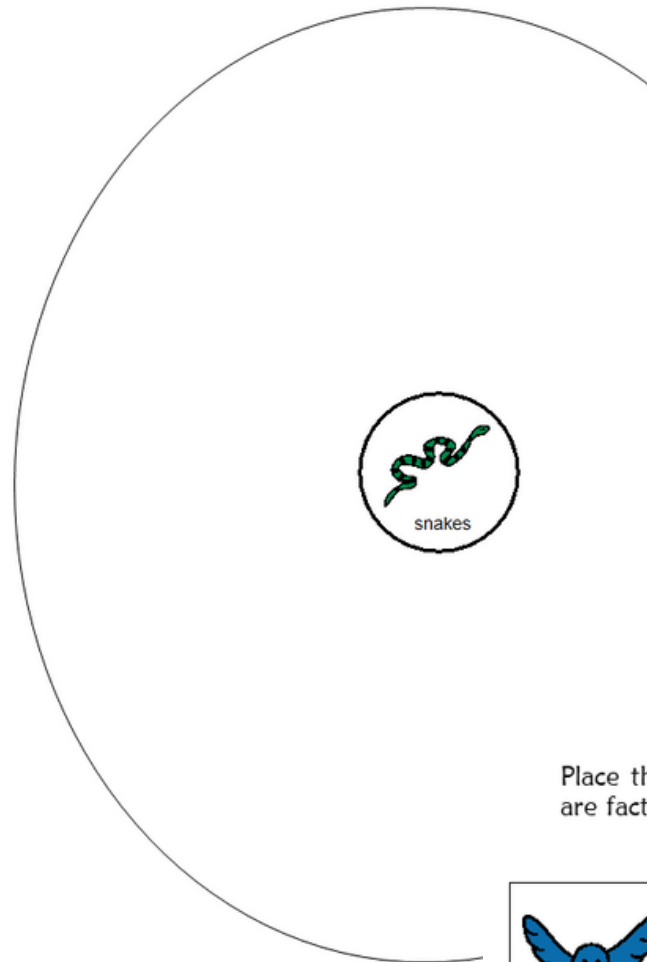
Put the items below in the butcher shop **ONLY IF** you think you would find them in a grocery store.



There are circle maps in this unit. Circle maps are a great way for students to see the big idea.

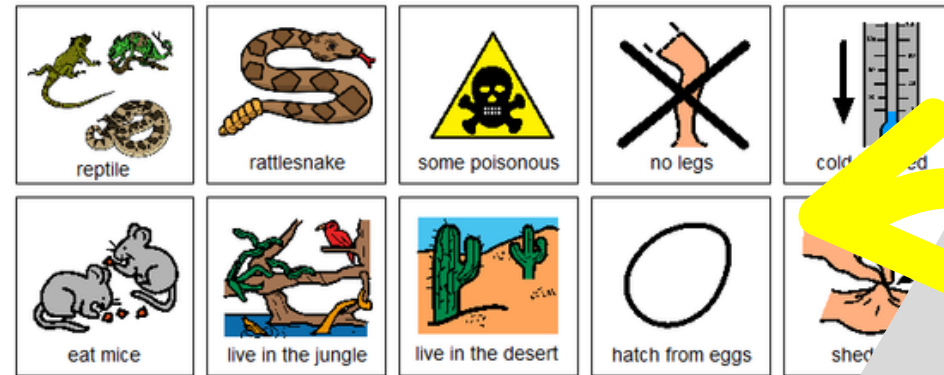


What are some facts about snakes.

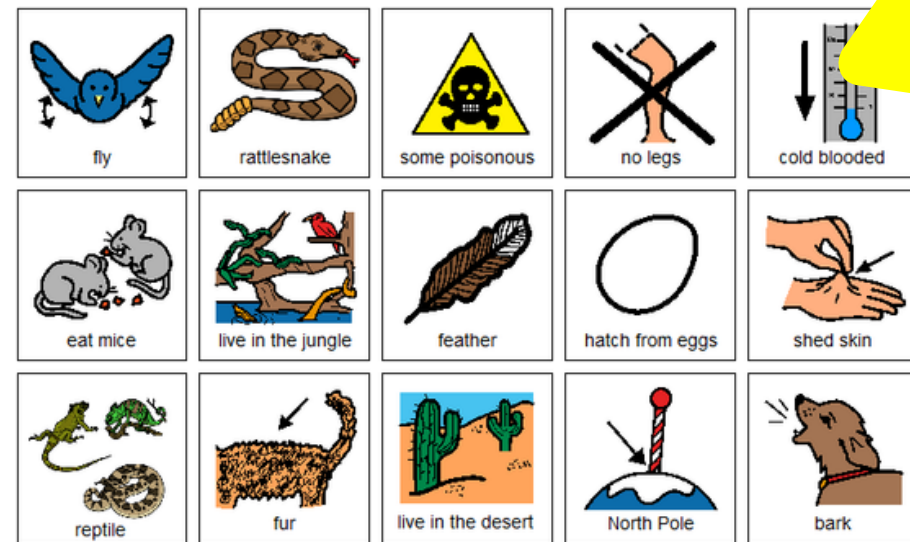


Errorless version

Place the pictures in the circle map on previous page showing facts about snakes.



Place the pictures in the circle map on previous page **only if** they are facts about snakes.

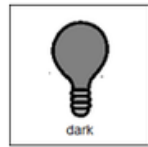


Each circle map comes with 2 choices:




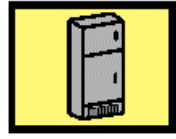











An errorless option with only correct answers

An option that has wrong answers mixed in students will need to set aside.

Kaori sees Virgil in a dark place in her vision. What are some places that are dark vs some places that are well lit?

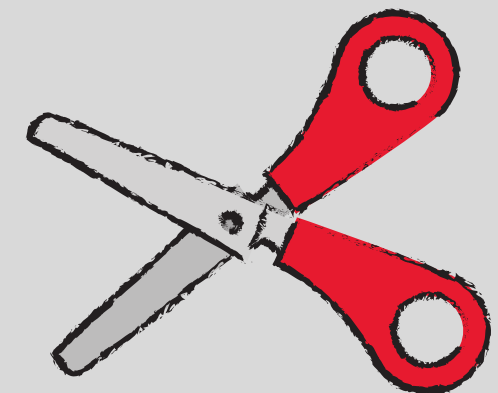


Put each picture in the correct column on the previous page. If you are not sure, then put it on the middle line.

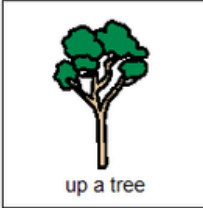

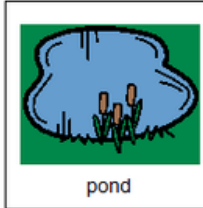
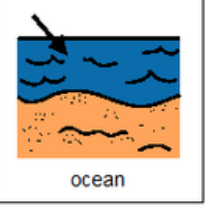


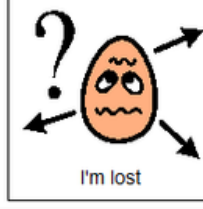
 sunny day	 basement	 library	 kitchen	 bonfire night
 closet	 classroom	 cave	 zoo	 movie theater
 tunnel	 fair	 stadium	 under the bed	 night

There are sorting activities.









Directions on how to add color coding for differentiation is included.



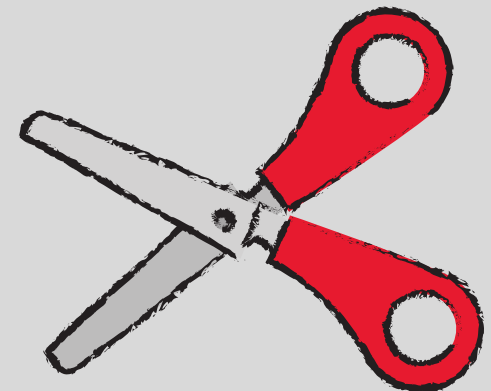
If you had to rescue someone who was trapped in the following places, what would you use?

 well	<input type="text"/>	 up a tree	<input type="text"/>
 mountain peak	<input type="text"/>	 pond	<input type="text"/>
 ocean	<input type="text"/>	 apartment fire	<input type="text"/>
 locked door	<input type="text"/>	 I'm lost	<input type="text"/>

Match with the situation on the previous page.

 keys	 map	 rescue helicopter	 fire engine
 speedboat	 rowboat	 rope	 ladder

There are matching activities. Directions on how to add color coding for differentiation is included.



Let me introduce myself

Hello, my name is .

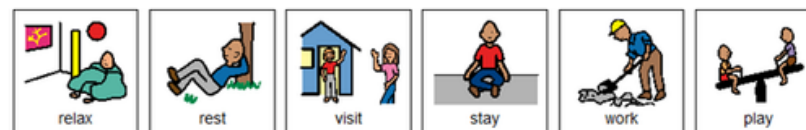
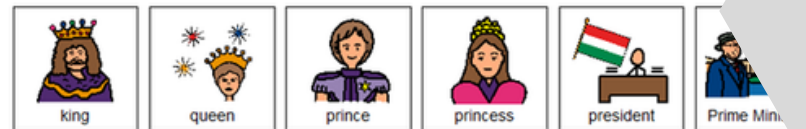
I come from .

There, I was a very important .

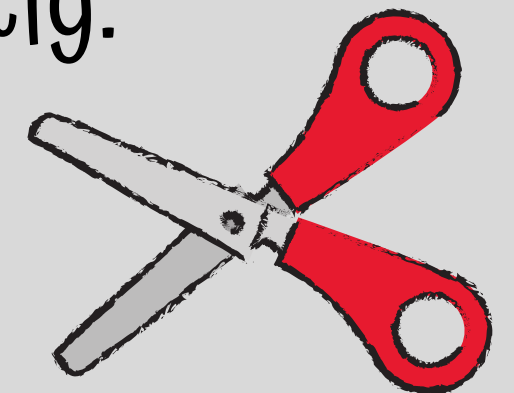
I left to find .

I plan to for a while.

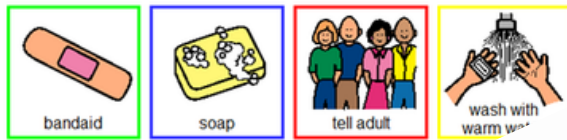
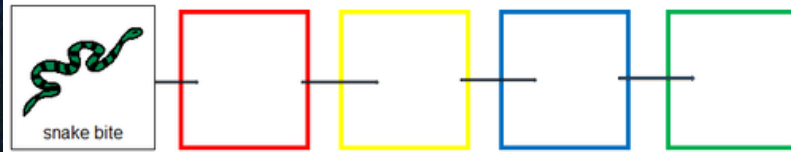
Students either write in their own name, or come up with a fake one to use for the story.



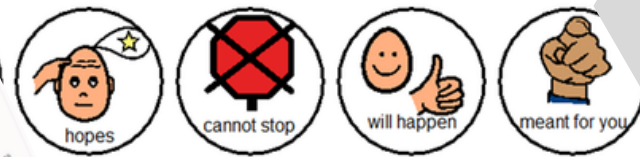
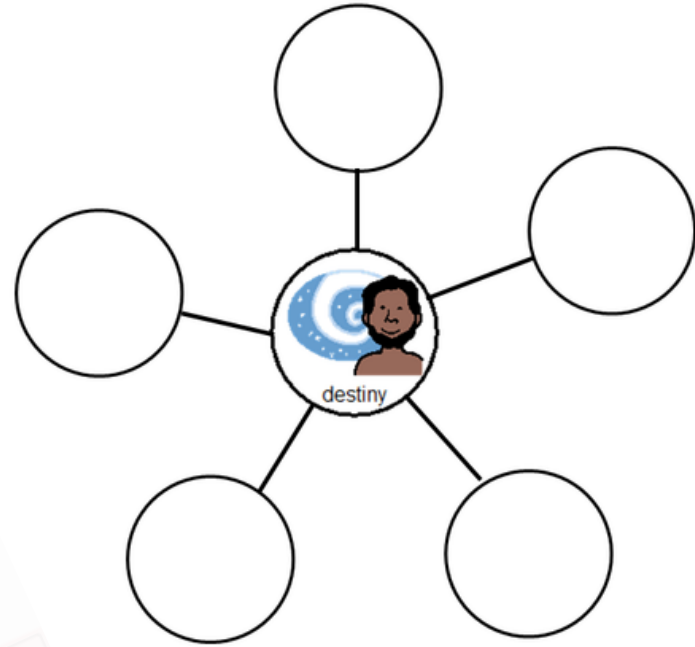
There are writing prompts. These are errorless activities that allow students to write a story independently.



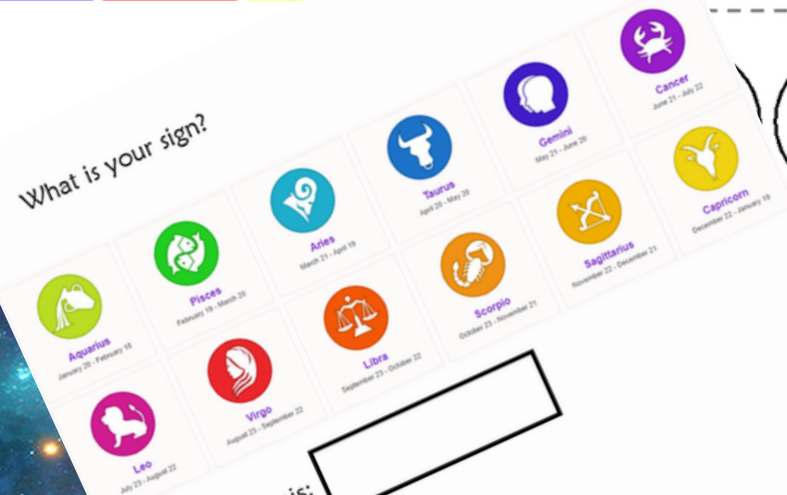
Sequence what to do when you get bitten by a non-poisonous snake.



What does destiny mean?



What is your sign?



My birthday is:

My sign is:



Christa Joy, Special Needs for Special Kids
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Because there are so many activities, you can choose the ones that fit your students the best.

CH 16-17

1. What was Gulliver's favorite food?



2. What did Chet steal from Virgil?



3. What did Chet do with the backpack?



4. How did Virgil get of the bottom of the well?



5. What broke when Virgil dropped to the bottom?



CH 26-27

1. What does Kaori say nightmares represent?



2. What does she think Valencia is afraid of?



3. Does Valencia believe Kaori?



4. What do the girl have for lunch?

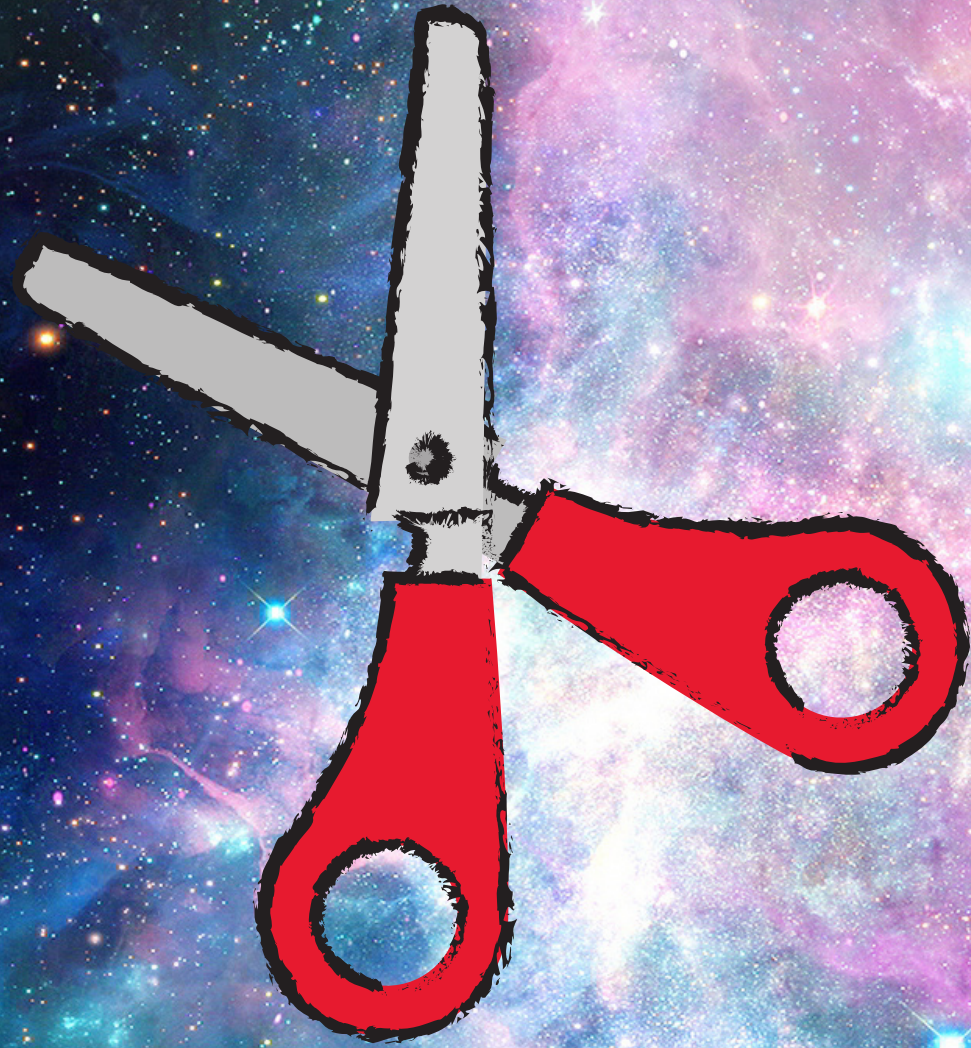


5. What will the girls do after lunch?



This unit does come with comprehension questions. There are 5 questions for every 2 chapters. Each question has 3 picture choices. They are in color and black and white.

Answer key included!!



I realize there will be some students out there unable to do cutting activities. I have a blog post with ways to complete activities without a pair of scissors!!

[Click Here to read more!!](#)