

Duck! Rabbit! Who are you? - Perspective

EXPLANATION:

Duck! Rabbit! by Amy Krouse Rosenthal is a book for young children narrated by two unseen voices, each taking an opposing viewpoint. This book is a starting point in the prior to school years for discussing the value of perspective-taking as children debate whether the character is a duck or if it a rabbit? The correct answer is never given making this is a great opportunity to talk about how two people can think differently about something, and both be right!

YEAR LEVELS: Prior to school

STUDENT GROUPING: Whole group story reading and discussion

ACTIVITY LENGTH: 30mins approx.

LINK TO CURRICULUM:

Early Years Learning Framework:

Learning Outcome 2: Children are connected with and contribute to their world

- 2.1 Children develop a sense of belonging to groups and communities and an understanding of the reciprocal rights and responsibilities necessary for active community participation.
- 2.2 Children respond to diversity with respect.
- 2.3 Children become aware of fairness.

Learning Outcome 4: Children are confident and involved learners

- 4.2 Children develop a range of skills and processes such as problem solving, inquiry, experimentation, hypothesising, researching and investigating.
- 4.3 Children transfer and adapt what they have learned from one context to another.

Learning Outcome 5: Children are effective communicators

- 5.1 Children interact verbally and non-verbally with others for a range of purposes.
- 5.2 Children engage with a range of texts and gain meaning from these texts.
- 5.3 Children express ideas and make meaning using a range of media.
- 5.5 Children use information and communication technologies to access information, investigate ideas and represent their thinking.

SCOPE OF TASK

1. Gather all children into a space for story time
2. Introduce the book, *Duck! Rabbit!* to the whole group of children. Explain to the children that the book is about two people who see different animals while looking at the same thing.
3. Read the story or click on the link to hear the story narrated:



4. Activate prior knowledge. Ask children:

- What sounds do ducks make?
- What sounds do rabbits make?
- How do ducks and rabbits move?
- What else do they know about ducks and rabbits?

5. Question the children:

- What animal can you see on the cover of the book?
- Why do you say that it is a duck or a rabbit?



6. Make a graph with children indicating what they think the animal is – display it in a space where it can be referred to by children

7. Throughout the story ask the children if they have changed their perception of what the animal is – why?

8. At the end of the story re-create the graph and compare with the original. Have opinions changed?

9. Questions to prompt conversations about different perspectives and points of view include:

- Do we know for certain what type of animal it is?
- Who is correct? Is there a correct answer?
- Are there times when there is no “right” or “wrong” answer?

Duck! 	Rabbit! 

- What do you do when you and your friends disagree about something?
- When is it okay to disagree?
- Do we always have to reach the same conclusions?
- Can we still be friends and disagree?

RESOURCES

Rosenthal, A. K., & Lichtenheld, T. (2009). **Duck! Rabbit!** San Francisco, Calif.: Chronicle

Online video: The Kindness Curriculum- Duck! Rabbit! read by Aaron Finch sourced from:
<https://youtu.be/XC84ee9dTMc>

