

Freddy The Alien

By: Jonathan Del Arco and Trisha DiFazio

Elementary Discussion Guide

Suggested Age Range: 6-11

About the Story

Freddy doesn't feel like he belongs. Not at school. Not in his neighborhood. Not even on Earth!

Freddy and his family move from Uruguay to New York City. There, he feels even more out of place. He doesn't speak the language. He doesn't understand the culture. More than anything, he feels like an alien—strange and lost in space.

A caring teacher sees Freddy for who he truly is. She helps him discover something special. Being different isn't something to hide. Being different is something to celebrate!

About the Author

Jonathan Del Arco is an actor, author, speaker, and award-winning activist for LGBTQ+ and immigrants' rights and anti-bullying efforts. As an actor, he's best known for his role as Hugh Borg on *Star Trek: The Next Generation* and *Star Trek: Picard*. He immigrated from Uruguay to New York at the age of ten. He struggled to feel like he belonged and always felt like an alien.

Trisha DiFazio, MAT, is an author, screenwriter, and education consultant. A former teacher and professor, she believes in empowering students and parents. She is the cofounder of SEL Starts with Us, an organization that equips students, educators, and families with essential Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) skills to help them thrive in school and beyond.

Discussion Questions

- ✿ Freddy feels like an alien. What makes him feel like he doesn't belong?
- ✿ Freddy's family moves to New York City. What new things did he learn there?
- ✿ Freddy's teacher shows him kindness. Why do you think small acts of kindness can make a big difference?
- ✿ Freddy learns that being different is something to celebrate. What is something different or unique about you?
- ✿ Imagine you are writing a new adventure for Freddy. Where would he go and what would he do?

Activities

- ✿ Work as a class or in small groups to create a Feelings Journal for Freddy. Draw or describe how Freddy feels from the beginning to the end of the story. Encourage students to talk about when they have felt the same as Freddy.
- ✿ Design a poster called "My Superpower." Add a drawing of you and describe something unique about you.
- ✿ As a class, create a "Welcome Wheel." On a large circle of paper, have each student write one idea to make someone new feel welcome.
- ✿ With the help of an adult, find Uruguay on a globe or map. Learn more about Uruguay's culture, food and climate.
- ✿ Imagine you are in a warm place like Uruguay. Draw what kinds of activities you would do with your friends and family.



Reading is one of the most powerful ways to model inclusion and nurture empathy. Welcoming Schools created the Book of the Month series to foster compassionate dialogue and elevate joyful stories of authentic LGBTQ+ lives, building monthly engagement and momentum leading up to our National Day of Reading each February.