



Siggy's Parade

*Helping Kids with Disabilities
Find their Strengths*

by Blanche R. Dudley, Ed.D.

illustrated by John Hazard and Robert Blankenship

Siggy is a mockingbird who only has one wing. But he doesn't let his disability get in his way—he celebrates it instead! On National "I Like Me!" Day, Siggy decides to start a parade for all of his friends so they can come to appreciate and celebrate their unique disabilities too! He recruits friends like Ruthie Raccoon, who is confined to her shiny wheelchair, Tall Paul, a bear who is taller and skinnier than his brothers and Penelope Pig, who has to wear hearing aids in her giant pink ears. Though the mean bluejay twins, Vickie and Ickie, who always tease Siggy for being unable to fly, try to ruin the day, Siggy and his friends march proudly and have the best parade anyone has ever seen! The friends all learn that they have to be proud of themselves for who they are, no matter their disabilities, and that it is what makes them different that makes them special. This message of acceptance and understanding is augmented with tips and suggestions to teach children how to embrace their own unique selves.

Blanche R. Dudley, EdD, earned a doctorate in education at West Virginia University and wrote a dissertation on enhancing the self-esteem of middle-school children. A teacher for over fifteen years, she focused on expository and creative writing. Dr. Dudley was the 1985 West Virginia Teacher of the Year. She now spends her free time writing and birdwatching in her backyard where she finds inspiration for her characters. Dudley and her husband live in Reston, Virginia.

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