

SARTHAK SINHA
THE BOY ON FIRE



IDEAS FOR KSI TEACHERS & LIBRARIANS

Suitable for: Ages 5+

Includes: Reading questions, challenges and activities

Themes: Self-acceptance; Friendship; Sharing Your Light



TEACHER RESOURCES
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About the Book

Meet Til, a spirited young boy who has an extraordinary quality – he’s always on fire. But being ablaze sets him apart from others, leaving him feeling sad and alone.

One day, he encounters a twinkling star and discovers a magical friendship that unveils the secret truth: Til’s radiant light is a beacon of warmth and brilliance. Soon his vibrant light begins to touch the lives of those around him, inspiring them to find and celebrate their own radiant glows. *The Boy on Fire* will ignite young hearts and remind readers of all ages that our differences are what make us shine brightest. Embrace the warmth, embrace the light, and discover the joy of being uniquely you!

Before reading!

Prompts for discussion

Use the prompt questions below to start discussion about themes in the book.

- What does it mean to be ‘unique’ or ‘different’?
- What does it feel like to be different to others?
- Do you think it is a good thing that people are different? Why?
- Why is it important to feel positive about yourself and celebrate yourself?
- How does a good friend help you to feel positive about yourself?
- Why should we celebrate everyone’s unique identities and personalities?

1. Self-acceptance

Use the ‘Self-acceptance’ activity sheet to help with these activities.

Reading Questions:

- Why does Til feel like he is different to other children?
- What helps Til to realise that he should celebrate his unique qualities?

Reading Challenge:

Discuss as a group how Til goes through lots of different feelings in the story. Can children identify when Til feels the different emotions listed?

Can they also draw facial expressions in the flames to represent the different feelings?

Design: create something like the table on the next page.

Activity:

Encourage children to act out facial expressions for each of the feelings listed. Can they guess which feelings their partners are acting out? Can they match any of their faces to Til’s feelings in the story? Challenge them to come up with any original feelings that perhaps aren’t obvious on first reading.

2. Friendship

Use the 'Friendship' and 'Friendship Stars' activity sheets to help with these activities.

Reading Questions:

1. What qualities make a good friend?
2. How does the star help Til feel positive about himself? What does the star say and do?
3. What does Til realise as he waves goodbye to the star?

Reading Challenge:

Below are some of the things the star says to Til to help him feel positive about himself. Ask children to consider why each thing is a nice thing to say. How does it make Til feel?

1. "Wow, you glow just like me..."
2. "Have you seen how the forest glows in your light?"
3. "Remember, we are always found even in the dark."
4. "Keep the fire up Til, keep it lit."

Activity:

What are some nice things children can say to their close friends to make them feel positive about themselves? Can they write them in the stars? Challenge them to practice saying these things to their friends, and seeing what impact it has.

3. Sharing Your Light

Use the 'Sharing Your Light' and 'My Star' activity sheets to help with these activities.

Reading Questions:

1. What does Til learn to accept and celebrate about himself?
2. How does Til feel when he celebrates his unique qualities?
3. What happens when Til 'shares his light'?

Reading Challenge:

Spend some time looking at the final pages of the story as a class. Ask children to comment on the illustrations.

What is happening? How do the illustrations make them feel?

Activity:

By the end of the story, Til has learned to accept his unique qualities so that he can share his light with others.


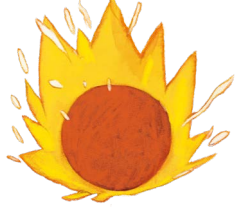


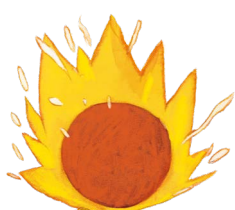

Ask children to consider their own unique qualities. Encourage them to decorate the star template with any words, images, photographs or drawings that express their unique qualities. When they have finished, hang the stars in a classroom display to celebrate everyone's differences and special, inner light that they bring to the world.



Self-acceptance

Reading Questions:

1. Why does Til feel like he is different to other children?
2. What helps Til to realise that he should celebrate his unique qualities?

Til is feeling...	when...	His facial expression is...
Angry, Frustrated, Furious		
Anxious, Worried		
Sad, Upset, Hurt, Gloomy		
Confused, Doubtful		
Calm, Relaxed, Peaceful		
Loved, Supported, Special		

Friendship

Reading Questions:

1. What qualities make a good friend?

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2. How does the star help Til feel positive about himself? What does the star say and do?

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.....

3. What does Til realise as he waves goodbye to the star?

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Reading Challenge:

Why are these things a nice thing for Til to hear? How does it make Til feel?

1. "Wow, you glow just like me..."

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2. "Have you seen how the forest glows in your light?"

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3. "Remember, we are always found even in the dark."

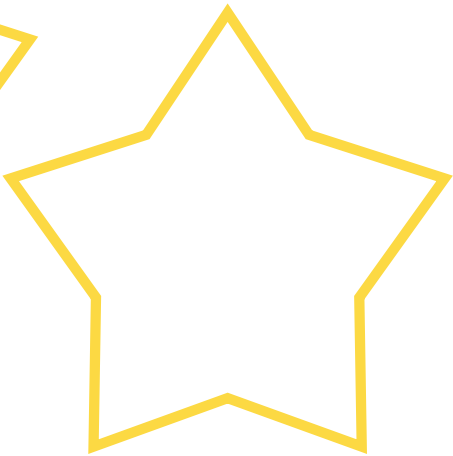
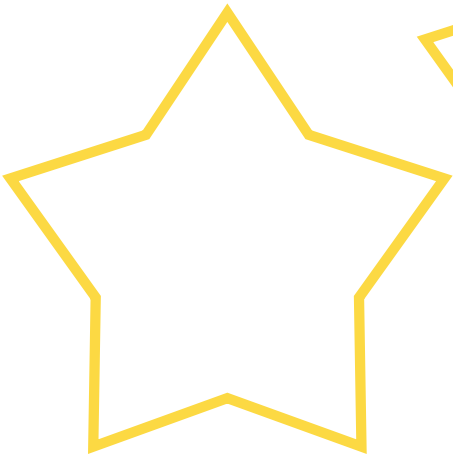
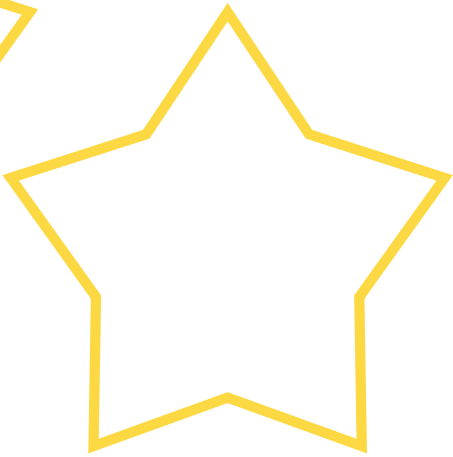
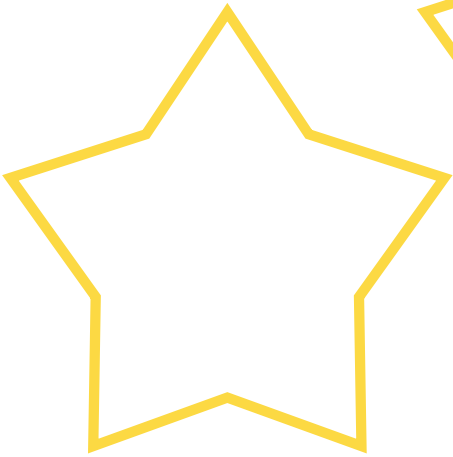
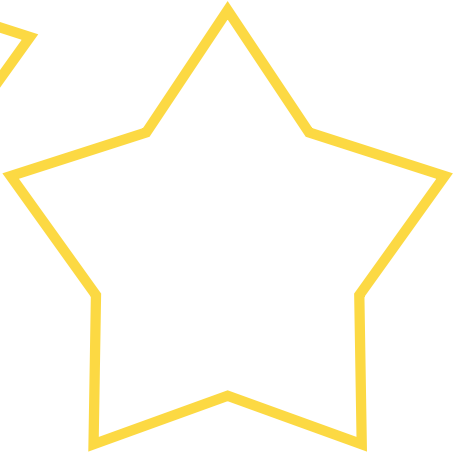
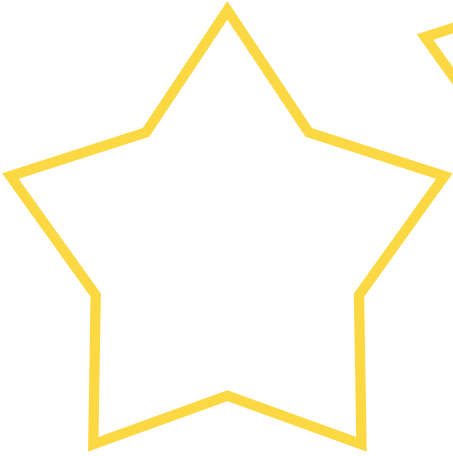
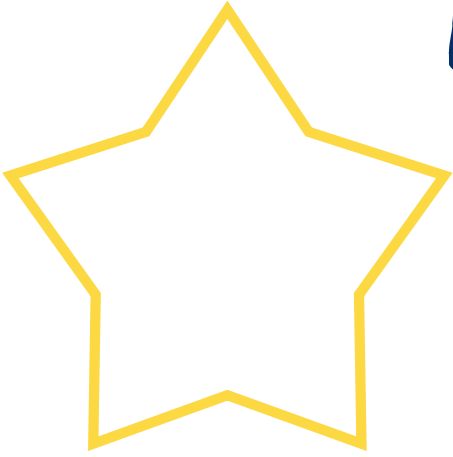
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4. "Keep the fire up Til, keep it lit."

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Friendship Stars



Sharing Your Light

Reading Questions:

1. What does Til learn to accept and celebrate about himself?

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2. How does Til feel when he celebrates his unique qualities?

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3. What happens when Til 'shares his light'?

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Reading Challenge:

What is happening? How do the illustrations make you feel?

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My Star

