

3–7 Grade ELA Lesson Plan

A Kid Like Me by Norm Feuti

Grade Levels

3–7

Time

45–60 minutes

Common Core State Standards (CCSS ELA)

- **RL.3–7.1:** Ask and answer questions using evidence from the text.
 - **RL.3–7.2:** Determine the theme or central message.
 - **RL.3–7.3:** Describe how characters respond to challenges and change over time.
 - **RL.3–7.6:** Explain how a character's point of view influences events.
 - **RL.3–7.7:** Analyze how illustrations contribute to the meaning, mood, and tone of the story.
 - **W.3–7.3:** Write narratives using descriptive details and clear event sequences.
 - **W.3–7.1:** Write opinion pieces supported with reasons and evidence.
 - **SL.3–7.1:** Participate effectively in collaborative discussions.
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Learning Objectives

Students will:

- Analyze Ethan's character development throughout the story.
 - Explore themes of belonging, friendship, self-confidence, and identity.
 - Use evidence from both the text and illustrations to support their thinking.
 - Understand how graphic novels use visual storytelling to develop characters.
 - Reflect on personal experiences with friendship and fitting in through narrative writing.
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Essential Questions

- What does it mean to truly belong?
 - How do friendships influence our choices?
 - Is fitting in always the same as being yourself?
 - How do illustrations help readers understand a character's emotions?
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Materials

- *A Kid Like Me* by Norm Feuti
 - Character Growth Graphic Organizer
 - Sticky Notes
 - Chart Paper
 - Writing Journals or Notebook Paper
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Vocabulary

- Belonging
 - Identity
 - Friendship
 - Conflict
 - Perspective
 - Confidence
 - Inference
 - Theme
 - Dialogue
 - Graphic Novel
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Before Reading (10 minutes)

Activate Prior Knowledge

Ask students:

- Have you ever wanted to fit in with a group?
- What makes someone a true friend?
- Have you ever had to choose between doing what was popular and doing what felt right?
- What makes you unique?

Students complete a **Think-Pair-Share**, followed by a whole-class discussion.

During Reading (25 minutes)

Character Growth Tracker

Students record Ethan's development throughout the story.

Story Event	Ethan's Feelings	Evidence (Words & Pictures)	What Ethan Learns
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Encourage students to notice:

- Facial expressions
- Body language
- Dialogue
- Background details
- Interactions with Ricky and Aiden
- Visual clues that show Ethan's emotions

Class Discussion

Discuss:

1. Why does Ethan want to fit in?
2. How do Ethan's friendships change during the story?
3. What challenges does Ethan face because of other people's opinions?
4. How do the illustrations help readers understand Ethan's emotions?
5. What lesson does Ethan learn about friendship and being himself?

Mini-Lesson

Character Growth in Graphic Novels

Explain that graphic novels tell stories using both **words** and **illustrations**.

Readers should pay attention to:

- Facial expressions
- Body language
- Speech bubbles
- Panel sequence
- Background details
- Visual symbolism
- Dialogue

Ask students to find one panel where Ethan's feelings are shown mostly through the artwork rather than the words.

Collaborative Activity (10–15 minutes)

Friendship Qualities

In small groups, students create two charts.

A Good Friend...

- Listens
- Encourages others
- Is honest
- Includes everyone
- Respects differences

A Poor Friend...

- Excludes others
- Pressures people
- Makes fun of others
- Ignores feelings
- Breaks trust

Groups compare their lists with examples from the story.

Writing Activity (20–25 minutes)

Writing Prompt

Sometimes it's difficult to decide whether to fit in or be yourself. Write about a time when you felt different from others, or imagine you are Ethan trying to find where you belong. Describe the challenges you face, the friendships you build, the choices you make, and what you learn about confidence, kindness, and staying true to yourself. Include descriptive details about your thoughts, feelings, and actions.

Extension Activities

Grades 3–4

Friendship Comic

Create a four-panel comic showing:

- A student feeling left out
- Someone offering friendship

- Working together
- A positive ending

Include speech bubbles and captions.

Grades 5–7

Character Reflection Essay

Write an essay explaining how Ethan changes throughout the story.

Use evidence from both the text and illustrations to support your ideas.

Create a New Chapter

Imagine Ethan starts a new club at school where everyone feels welcome.

Write and illustrate a comic page showing:

- The club's purpose
 - New members
 - A challenge the club faces
 - How the group solves the problem
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Assessment

Formative

- Participation in discussions
 - Character Growth Organizer
 - Group collaboration
 - Reading observations
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Summative Writing Rubric

Criteria	4	3	2	1
Ideas	Thoughtful and detailed	Clear	Developing	Limited

Criteria	4	3	2	1
Organization	Well organized	Mostly organized	Some organization	Difficult to follow
Text Evidence	Strong support	Some support	Minimal support	No evidence
Conventions	Few errors	Some errors	Frequent errors	Many errors

Exit Ticket

Students answer one question:

- What helped Ethan discover where he belonged?
- Which illustration best showed Ethan's emotions?
- What makes someone a true friend?
- What advice would you give Ethan at the beginning of the story?

Differentiation

Support

- Sentence starters
- Graphic organizers
- Partner reading
- Teacher-guided discussion
- Visual vocabulary cards

Extension

- Compare Ethan's journey with another graphic novel character who struggles to fit in.
- Rewrite a scene from Aiden's or Ricky's point of view.
- Create a poster encouraging kindness and inclusion, using examples from the story.

Cross-Curricular Connections

SEL: Discuss the importance of inclusion, empathy, and respecting differences. Brainstorm ways to make every student feel welcome in the classroom.

Art: Design a comic strip that shows how facial expressions, body language, and panel layout can communicate emotions without many words.

Technology: Create a digital "Kindness Campaign" poster or slideshow promoting friendship, acceptance, and positive school communities.

Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) Connection

Students reflect on:

- Self-confidence
 - Empathy
 - Friendship
 - Respect
 - Inclusion
 - Positive decision-making
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Big Idea

A Kid Like Me reminds readers that everyone wants to belong, but true friendship comes from accepting yourself and others for who they are. Ethan's journey shows that confidence grows when we stay true to our values, choose kind friends, and celebrate what makes each person unique.