



SECTION 2

APPEARANCES & DIFFERENCES



**“Shouldn’t a girl who’s so good inside
have a matching exterior?”**

- Elphaba

ACTIVITY

◆ RESPECT ◆

“Alright, fine - we might as well get this over with:

No, I’m not seasick;

yes, I’ve always been green;

no, I didn’t eat grass as a child.”

- Elphaba

From the moment she was born, Elphaba was judged by the green colour of her skin. In the story of WICKED, we not only see Elphaba being treated poorly, but also other characters who are considered ‘different’, such as Doctor Dillamond and even Nessarose.

There are many examples around the world, including here in Australia, of people being excluded, judged, mistreated and discriminated against due to their race, disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, religion, culture, and/or other factors. Have your students think of and share examples of when people in Australia have been treated differently because of “their background or certain personal characteristics”¹, including those noted above.

It is particularly important to use the opportunity to explore the experiences of First Nations people and the role all Australians play in reconciliation.

Discuss with your students the importance of learning about others and celebrating diversity.

Have your students research the lives of famous Australians who have had to face prejudice and/or discrimination, such as Cathy Freeman OAM, Nicky Winmar, Adam Goodes, Dylan Alcott AO and Ian Thorpe AM.



[1] <https://humanrights.gov.au/quick-guide/12030>