



## Emotional Disturbance: Just Another Kid (Book)

Est. Time: 2 Weeks Reading/45 Minutes Class Time

### Synopsis

Ten days before the beginning of a new school year, Torey Hayden elected to teach a self-contained class for students with emotional disturbance until her British visa arrived. This book gives an in-depth and vivid account of her experiences working with six children and one aid who make up the classroom. Although Hayden became attached to the children, she did not sugarcoat the unpredictability and realities of daily life working with children with emotional disturbance.

### Activity

Read the following book and be prepared to discuss the questions below in class:

Title: Just Another Kid (1998)

Author: Torey Hayden

Publisher: G. P. Putnam's Sons • New York, NY

### Questions/Discussion Topics

1. Name the six children in Torey's classroom and list the issues that resulted in their special education placement.
2. What is elective mutism? How did Shemona start talking?
3. Why did Torey need an aid? Why was Torey reluctant to accept Ladbroke as an aid?
4. Which two students were able to be placed in general education at the end of the year?
5. In your opinion, could all of the students be in the general education classroom? Why or why not?
6. As a teacher, what strategies would you have used with Geraldine?
7. Shemona and Geraldine were from the same family and experienced the same trauma. Why do you think Shemona was able to move forward but Geraldine was not?



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