

Emotional Disturbance: Just Another Kid (Non-Fiction) Est. Time: 2 Weeks Reading/45 Minutes Class

Objective

Gain a better understanding of the differing strengths and needs of students with an emotional disorder.

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 aide 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

For Your Information

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) is the law that guarantees services and supports to students with disabilities if their school performance is adversely affected by their disability. Some mental health issues fall under one disability category defined by IDEA: emotional disturbance. To learn more about emotional disturbance, visit:

- [Emotional Disturbance](#) (Center for Parent Information and Resources)

Questions/Discussion Topics

1. Name the six students in Torey's classroom and list the issues that resulted in their special education placement.
2. Describe Shemona's condition? What did Ladbrooke do that led to Shemona talking?
3. Why did Torey need an aide? Why was Torey reluctant to accept Ladbrooke as an aide?
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 successful in the general education classroom? Why or why not?

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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 responded more positively to instruction than Geraldine?