

# Common Needs

To underscore likenesses, make a list of things the students feel are necessities for life. (This is very effective as a small-group project. Each group makes its own list and then compares it with the whole class. Tell the students to be sure they know why they chose each item on their list.) Agree on a class list. Ask them how this list might change if they lived in another country. Continue with a discussion as to whether or not needs change from culture to culture. Then, do the following activities.

1. Read and discuss *We Are All Alike, We Are All Different* by the Cheltenham Elementary School kindergartners. (See the bibliography.) It illustrates how people from different cultures have the same needs.
2. It will be fun for your own class to write a book after reading the above book. They can entitle it "Everybody Needs . . ." A master has been provided for the cover of this book (page 38).
3. Ask the students the following questions: Because someone is different, does that make him or her wrong/right or better/worse than you? Why? We need to respect each other's differences, so how can we show respect . . . in the classroom? . . . on the playground? . . . at home? . . . with a neighbor? . . . with a person from another culture? How would you like to be treated?
4. Watch and discuss the Reading Rainbow video, *Watch the Stars Come Out*. The book featured is about two children coming to America on their own. The video's theme explores the varied cultures immigrating to America, including their hopes and fears. If the video is not available, read the book and discuss. Ask the students to talk about how they would feel if they were transported into a country where they did not know anyone and could not speak the language. How could someone help them to feel better?



# Everybody Needs

