

Bitsy Bat, School Star

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Synopsis: Bitsy is a little bat with big star dreams of making friends at her new school. But when she arrives, Bitsy doesn't feel like she fits in. The other kids sit on their chairs, but sitting upright makes Bitsy dizzy. The other kids paint with their fingers, but Bitsy would rather use her toes. Everyone tells Bitsy she's doing things wrong-wrong-wrong, so she tries harder...and ends up having a five-star meltdown. With help from her family, Bitsy musters her courage, comes up with a new plan, and discovers that being a good friend is just one of the ways she shines bright!

Suggested Reading Date: September (start of school); April 2nd (Autism Awareness Day)

Activity Descriptions:

- Read the pictures of the story as well as the words. How is Bitsy the same and different from her classmates?
- Discuss. How did Bitsy Bat's "big star idea" change how her classmates saw her? What can you do to include others in your classroom?
- Create a DIY sensory bottle for your class: <https://www.autismspeaks.org/blog/video-diy-sensory-bottle>
- Have students wear different colored socks to create a class rainbow. Share the quote from Stuart Duncan, "Autism, like a rainbow, has a bright side & a dark side & even though it can mean rough weather, it can be beautiful!"
<https://twitter.com/autismfather/status/474244351464198145>
- Trace student hands (or use a star) in different colors and students write how they are special on it to create a class bulletin board.
https://school.teachingbooks.net/media/pdf/activity_guides/65478.pdf
- Draw Bitsy Bat – Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p6lHuuZNV3o>

Related Websites:

- Author's website: <https://www.windnessbooks.com/>
- Autism Speaks – Virtual Activities: <https://www.autismspeaks.org/virtual-activities-kids-autism>
- Activity Sheets and Educator Guide: <https://karenwindness.wordpress.com/2023/01/14/bitsy-bat-school-star-media-kit-lesson-plans-activity-sheet/>
- Understanding Your Brain Story – Activities & Videos: <https://neuroclastic.com/show-us-your-brain-free-resource-for-understanding-your-brain-story/>

Text to Text Connections:

- *How to Party Like a Snail* by Naseem Hrab
- *Ruby Finds a Worry* by Tom Percival
- *Linus: The Little Yellow Pencil* by Scott Magoon
- *Nigel and the Moon* by Antwan Eady

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