

"Like Me"

By Emily Perl Kingsley



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I went to my dad and said to him,
There's a new kid who's come to my
school.
He's different from me and he isn't too
cool.

No, he's nothing at all like me, like
me,
No, he's nothing at all like me.

He runs in a funnyish jerkyish way
And he never comes first in a race
Sometimes he forgets which way is
first base,
And he's nothing at all like me, like
me,
No, he's nothing at all like me.

He studies all day in a separate class
And they say that it's called "Special
Ed."
And sometimes I don't understand
what he's said,
And he's nothing at all like me, like
me,
No, he's nothing at all like me.

His face looks kind of different from
mine,
And his talking is sometimes so slow
And it makes me feel funny and
there's one thing I know;
He is nothing at all like me, like me,
No, he's nothing at all like me!

And my father said, "Son, I want you to
think
When you meet someone different and
new

That he may seem a little bit strange,
it's true,
But he's not very different from you,
from you,
No, he's not very different from you,"

Well I guess, I admitted, I've looked at
his face;
When he's left out of games, he feels
bad.
And when other kids tease him, I can
see he's so sad.
I guess that's not so different from
me, from me,
No, that's not very different from me.

And when we're in Music, he sure
loves to sing,
And he sings just like me, right out
loud.
When he gets his report card, I can
tell he feels proud,
And that's not very different from me,
from me,
No, that's not very different from me.

And I know in the lunchroom he has
lots of fun;
He loves hot dogs and ice cream and
fries.

And he hates to eat spinach and
that's not a surprise,
'Cause that's not very different from
me, from me,

No, that's not very different from me.

And he's always so friendly, he
always says hi,
And he waves and he calls out my
name.
And he'd like to be friends and get
into a game,
Which is not very different from me,
from me,
No, I guess that's not different from
me.

And his folks really love him. I saw
them at school,
I remember on Open School Night --
They were smiling and proud and
they hugged him real tight,
And that's not very different from me,
from me,
No, that's not very different from me.

So I said to my dad, Hey, you know
that new kid?
well, I've really been thinking a lot.
Some things are different . . . and
some things are not . . .
But mostly he's really like me, like
me,
Yes, my new friend's . . . a lot . . . like
me.



Pictured above: Jimmy English, born with Down syndrome, is the star for a Taco Bell commercial.
Pictured at right: **Emily Perl Kingsley** is the mother of an adult child with Down syndrome and an award winning writer. She has received 17 Emmy Awards and 14 Emmy nominations for her work on SESAME STREET since 1970. She has also written about 20 children's books and many home videos. Ms. Kingsley is a frequent lecturer on intellectual disabilities and disability rights and served for nine years on the Board of Directors of the National Down Syndrome Congress.
She is co-chairperson of the Parent Assistance Committee on Down Syndrome of Westchester County and serves on the Non-Traditional Casting Project, helping to encourage television and film casting of people with disabilities.