



change would make the school a better place.

- In one scene in the book, a child accidentally breaks a fishbowl. Tell us about a time when you made a choice that you regretted later. What did you learn from that situation?
- 'Some people see what we're good at, and that helps us to know it, too.' What does this sentence from the book mean to you?
- What things make you feel welcomed at school? How do you make others feel welcomed?
- If you started attending a new school, what questions would you want answered before your first day?

## ACTIVITIES

- Create a book about your school, with each member of your class given the task of creating a page. Have each student (or pair of students or small group of students) sign up to share something that makes their school special (for example, the cafeteria, gym, library, office, or playground) and use the template to create their page. When the book is complete, add it to your classroom library, school library, or the lobby of your school.
- It takes a lot of people to make a school run smoothly. Write a thank-you letter to someone in the school you appreciate. Place your letter in a decorated envelope and then deliver it to the recipient.
- Brainstorm with your students what their dream school, classroom, library, playground or other school space would look like. Have each student draw their dream space and describe what makes it so wonderful.
- A school or classroom needs many individuals to make it successful. Using corrugated cardboard, cut out pieces that fit together into a large jigsaw puzzle. Give each child a puzzle piece to decorate with objects, words and pictures that show their own uniqueness. Then have your students construct the puzzle and display it in the hallway or on a bulletin board to show how each person is special and brings different qualities to your classroom community.
- The staff and students in the book work hard to make their school beautiful. Can you and your students find examples of this throughout the book? (Hint: pinwheels.) Discuss whether these efforts seem significant and if so, how. Then, using instructions you can find online that work best for your students, make pinwheels to decorate your classroom or school. Or determine other ways the school in *This Is a School* is beautified, and try one of those projects in your school.