

The One and Only Sparkella

READ ALOUD GUIDE

Themes: First Day of School, Being Yourself

Book Brief: With a little help from her dad, Ella learns the importance of being herself, no matter what other people say.

Author:
Channing Tatum

Illustrator:
Kim Barnes



BEFORE READING

The Cover: Have students make predictions about the story based on the cover.

The Pictures: Take a brief picture walk and ask students what they notice about Ella.

Prior Knowledge: Ask students, “Have you ever felt different before? Explain.” (Optional: Think, Pair, Share)

Vocabulary: Frontload Tier 2 words using the accompanying [Vocabulary Guide](#).

Purpose for Reading: “As we read today, think about how Ella learns to be herself.”

DURING READING

Check for understanding & make connections:

- What are some things we learn about Ella throughout the first couple of pages?
- How does Ella’s first day of school go? How about her second day?
- What advice does Ella share with her dad? Does she take her own advice? Explain.

AFTER READING

Our Purpose: How does Ella learn to be herself by the end of the story?

Extending Our Thinking: Ella learns to be herself with a little help from her dad. Using [RIF’s Wellness Comic Strip](#), have students tell a story about a time that they did not feel their best and how they overcame it.

If your students enjoyed this book...

- Encourage them to continue to discuss it and refer to it in other lessons and conversations.
- Let them explore more about the topic by reading other books with similar themes, structure, characters, or content.