

## **Differently Abled**

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based on the book, *Differently Abled*

by Sandra Lee Reynolds

### Tagline

From war to success

### Logline

The story follows, Sierra young has down syndrome, who believes she can still have a friend. Disabled, she thinks she can do the same thing as everyone else.

### Characters

**SIERRA (6-10)** - She is a child. She has down syndrome, disabled; Sierra hates to go to school, nobody likes to play with her. She is a strong and outspoken girl who will touch the hearts of the healthy as well as those who suffer from others disabilities or illnesses.

She never doubts herself; she believes she is different from others but can do the same thing as other people or children her age. Sierra will bring hope and joy to the viewers throughout the story, a strong girl with faith. She never backs down.

At the beginning of the film, we introduce her as a shy young girl who doesn't want to go to school. She hates school, but she doesn't want to explain to her Mom, who understands it anyway.

For her, this is a new challenge and a new step she must make to make this day unique.

She finishes having her breakfast and follows her Mom, and she finally accepts to go to school.

This short introduction shows her already a personality that is not self-esteem, not confident, and weak.

But as the story moves forward, she arrives at school and meets two girls playing in hop shock. She looked interested and excited, and she wanted to try. This shows us a Joyful person.

As the two girls continue playing, she gets out of the car and approaches them. The stone falls on the floor. She picks it up, ready to play.

This shows us she likes to enjoy life and is not afraid of trying to make friends.

The two girls mock her, curse her and try everything to stop her, but Sierra doesn't stop. This shows us determination from Sierra. She starts playing, but when she is about to jump to the hop, she falls on the ground and doesn't make it. She begins to cry. The two girls laugh at her.

In this part of the film, the two girls are on the right as they mock Sierra. They tell us through their actions. Sierra will never come to play with them.

Sierra shows her weakness, she is about to give, and the audience is about to give to her.

But Sierra has shown us more than that. She stands up, shouts, and curses the two girls.

She gives them a bit of advice and tells them she can do it. Everybody can play or jump.

Those actions are the key we need in the film. Although he shows her, she gives up, but her words touch the two girls, who apologize to her and promise to show her.

We are watching Sierra playing with the two girls, learning how to play step by step until she finally manages to do it.

She won this battle and showed us that nothing could stop a little girl with down syndrome from accomplishing her goal.

**Mom:** The voice of the reason, the love, and the kindness. She wants the best for her daughter even though she knows Sierra is sad and doesn't have a friend. She pushes her to go to school. She knows and believes in her daughter.

Throughout the film, she will be an example for the audience and the children. She guides her daughter to school and watches her behave, grow and react. At the beginning of the story, we see her advise her daughter to go to school. She can see how much her daughter feels, but she knows what is best for her.

She dropped her at school when they met two girls playing on the playing ground.

She watches the two girls playing with her daughters, and her daughters run away.

She only reacted at the end when the two girls acknowledged their mistakes. She gives them advice, corrects them, and lets them know their actions weren't good.

The Mom watches the two girls and her daughters playing together and helping each other.

A kind-hearted person, she is an example for this film. At the end of the first day at school, she comes to pick Sierra up, and as a mother, she wonders how the school was, surprising Sierra likes it. Her Mom can be proud of herself because she supports her through the process. She is a supportive mother, kind, loving, and always there for her daughter.

**First Girl:** In this story, she is the Antagonist.

We don't have enough information about her in the script, but she can be described as a jealous, judgmental little girl.

For the audience, she is just a kid, and we cannot hate her. She is portrayed as a villain when she doesn't get Sierra to play and laughs when she falls on the ground.

This is a clear example of our new generation and our kids. In this story, she is the one who hates Sierra more and doesn't want to play with her.

She shows more jealousy and disgust at Sierra. She has no compassion. But the hate won't be long when she acknowledges her fault and shows compassion to Sierra. She apologizes to Sierra and redeems herself from the audience, and shows an example for

the audience. Always own your mistake. For a kid, this is a growth and act of maturity.

**Second Girl:** She is also shown as the Antagonist and villain.

We don't know much about her, but in the story, she is portrayed as the villain and the supportive, naïve and girl who follows.

She allows Sierra to play in the first place when the first girl refuses. She wants to see how far Sierra can go. This is admiration and curiosity; she is already shown as the nice girl between those two.

But not for long, when Sierra falls on the ground, they both laugh at her, and she shows no compassion either for Sierra.

But she quickly redeems herself when she feels terrible about what they did to Sierra and questions herself.

This is shown as maturity and kindness to the viewers.

She runs with her friend to apologize to Sierra and decides to show her to play. They show an excellent example for the viewers: never judge people and always be kind to one another.

### **Synopsis**

The beautiful story of a disabled young girl who suffered from down syndrome. She is afraid of going to school because of her sickness, she tries to avoid mockery, but she believes she will find friends who will accept her as she is.

## Summary

### **Opening Scene**

The sun is shining in the room. We hear birds singing from outside. We are moving around the room. A young girl is sleeping on the bed. It's the fall season and a new school year.

"Wake up, Sierra!" Mom called from downstairs.

We pan around the house and meet our two protagonists, from upstairs to downstairs. The young girl lying on the bed opens her eyes.

### **Inciting Incident (Act One)**

This young girl is Sierra. She doesn't look excited to go to school.

She walks downstairs and sits at the table. She looks sad and worried. It's the first day of school, and she doesn't want to go. She has down syndrome, an introvert who doesn't want to go to school.

We quickly introduce her Mother; she is packing her stuff for this new day of school.

But Mom knows exactly how her daughter feels about this day, and she will try her best to make her daughter feel good for this new day. Sierra constantly refuses and tries everything to stay with her, she already expects to have no friends, but her Mom decides to drop her at school anyways.

## **Act Two (Lock-In)**

On their way to school, Sierra looks stressed and worried, but Mom tries her best to make her daughter feel good and ready for her first day at school. Sierra doesn't say a word in the car.

When she arrives at school, from her windows, something catches Sierra's attention. She remembers it. She used to play at home with her family. At the playing yard, she sees two girls playing in the hop shock. Sierra wants to play with them.

She gets out of the car and approaches the two girls. When one of the girls finishes playing, Sierra drops the stone and asks if she can play, but the two girls don't think Sierra can do it. The first Girl refuses and doesn't want her in their space, but the second Girl is more open and lets Sierra play. Sierra is very confident, and She begins to play, but she struggles to start jumping, falls on her knees, and starts crying.

The two girls laugh and make fun of Sierra, but Sierra gets on her feet, storms at them, and finds her voice. She screams at them, "I am not disabled, I am just different from you, I am differently abled, I like to play too." She feels like everybody can do things. She runs away from the two girls.

## **Act Two B Midpoint**

The two girls look at each other and start questioning each other about their actions. Sierra's words are running through their head, "I am not disabled."

Having Down Syndrome doesn't mean you can't do something. Sierra's Mom approaches them to question them, she explains that everybody is different, but it's taken more effort and little time for Sierra to learn.

She tries to reunite the girl together and applaud the two girls. She shows them how proud she is about them acknowledging their mistakes.

The two girls go and meet Sierra to apologize to her for laughing at her. Sierra wipes her tears and follows them. The two girls confidently sang to the Mom, "they know what to do and convince the Mom they will do it."

#### **Main Culmination (End Of Act Two)**

They grabbed Sierra's hand and headed to the playing ground, and decided to show her how to play the hop shock, step by step. As the lesson begins, Sierra has many attempts. She keeps falling.

She doesn't give up. It takes time to do it, but Sierra finally learns how to do it, and she manages to play. The two Girls enjoyed watching Sierra play, tossing the stone on the ground and hopping to the finish.

They are blown away and proud of seeing her taking her pride and manages to do it without giving up.

#### **Third Act Twist**



At the end of the day at school, Mom comes to pick up Sierra from school. She is happy and has succeeded in fulfilling her fear of school.

She can't wait for the next day of school.

Sierra wants to share her experience with the kids who face the same problem and disabilities like her.

Mom was happy for Sierra; she supported her daughter and helped her to make it and find friends. Sierra finally makes it.

She was afraid she wouldn't fit in or be judged, but she finally made it and overcame it.

### **Final Scene**

This scene focuses on fighting, trust, and hope—a girl who has down syndrome but believes in miracles.

Sierra voices her concerns and they listen. She spoke her truth, and they listened. They can overcome it together.

Down syndrome may always be an obstacle for her in the eyes of others. But again, as Sierra mentioned, she is only differently-abled, and everybody can do things, but it might take time for others to practice and execute it. Acceptance is the key, and this story teaches us to accept others and ourselves as we are.