

WICKED THEMES

INDIVIDUALITY AND BEING DIFFERENT VERSUS FITTING IN

In **WICKED**, the value of being an individual is highlighted, even though it can bring negative consequences.

ELPHABA

Elphaba feels she is different, not only because of her green colour, but because of her beliefs and ideas. She longs to belong.

ELPHABA sings:

“When I meet the wizard...by my looks, he won't be blinded”. Elphaba is judged, even ‘loathed’, because of her face, her voice, her clothing. When the Wizard does not live up to her expectations, Elphaba decides to act independently and “Defying Gravity” she creates her own path, even if it means being misunderstood.

Ultimately, Fiyero sees past Elphaba's green skin and recognises her inner beauty.

FIYERO

“Maybe I'm brainless, maybe I'm wise,
 But you've got me seeing me, through different eyes.
 Somehow I've fallen under your spell,
 And somehow I'm feeling it's up that I fell!”

NESSAROSE

Nessarose, Elphaba's sister, is also an individual who must live with a ‘disability’. “I'm in this chair and you felt sorry for me – well isn't that right?” She is clever enough to become Governor upon the death of her father but she is still haunted by the chair: “All my life I've depended on you, and this hideous chair with wheels”.

As the Cowardly Lion says in *The Lost Princess of Oz*, “To be individual, my friends, to be different from others, is the only way to become distinguished from the common herd. Let us be glad, therefore, that we differ from one another... Variety is the spice of life, and we are various enough to enjoy one another's society; so let us be content”.

DISCUSSION/DIARY ENTRY: (Beginners) In **WICKED**, many characters are individuals. List all that characters who could be considered different to the norm. (Consider Nessarose, the Wizard, Doctor Dillamond). Is it hard to be different from the group? In our society, which people could feel different from others? Write a diary entry in which you express the feeling of someone who feels ‘different’.

