

IN A DIFFERENT KEY: THE AUTISM UNDERSTANDING TOOLKIT

AUTISM'S OUTLINES



INTRODUCTORY CONTEXT

(suggested)

When it comes to talking about autism, it seems the simplest question to answer would be “What is autism?” Asked another way, “What is it like to be autistic.” But the answer to either question is not so simple, because autism itself can be so variable from one person to another. In fact, there is a saying that goes, “When you’ve met one person with autism, you’ve met one person with autism.” The documentary, “In A Different Key,” gets this across by showing the distinct personalities of two autistic men – how they’re similar, but also, how they are different. One of them is Donald Triplett, the first person diagnosed with autism. The second is Mickey, who is the son of the filmmaker, Caren Zucker.

KEY THEMES

- Core characteristics
- Different manifestations of autism
- “Concrete thinking”
- The breadth of the autism spectrum

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

How are Donald and Mickey alike, and unlike?

What are some core characteristics of autism?

How can neurotypical people adjust for a successful relationship with someone who is autistic?

Why do some people with autism need support their entire lives while others do not?

Sometimes you hear it said “we’re all a little autistic.” Do you think that’s accurate?