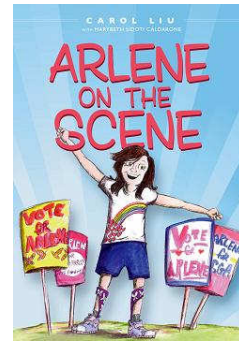


Difference, Disability and the Power of the Pen

Arlene on the Scene Presentation

by Carol Liu, author

(contact: publicity@arleneonthescene.com or 301-758-7508)



I. Difference

- a. It's instinctive, natural to notice difference
- b. It's useful! We can categorize, predict
- c. For example, we'll predict what this book is about by noticing Arlene's leg braces on the front cover
- d. How difference makes a person feel—*Reading, pp 1-3*
- e. Input from students—Reactions to difference and disability
 - i. Curiosity
 - ii. Sympathy
 - iii. Desire to help
 - iv. Empathy
- f. Arlene appreciates being treated equally
- g. Arlene's mistake in trying to erase her difference

II. Disability

- a. Why is Arlene wearing leg braces? Charcot-Marie-Tooth disease—introduction, statistics
- b. What nerves do; how CMT affects them
- c. Story behind the book: written to spread awareness of CMT, based on Marybeth and Grace Caldarone
- d. Is CMT a disability? What is the definition of disability? (for older students)
 - i. Legal—Americans With Disabilities Act
 - ii. Social—how we define disability (what if we lived in a world without stairs?)

III. Power of the pen

- a. Power lies in the freedom of your imagination, recorded through your writing
- b. You can change the world with what you write
 - i. The Constitution
 - ii. Speeches of Martin Luther King
 - iii. The Americans With Disabilities Act
 - iv. Letter to your friend (No, not a text! A real letter!)
- c. Marybeth Caldarone and I wanted to make a difference for Grace and the millions of people living with CMT. We needed to make people aware of CMT. So we wrote it down.
- d. Writing, like all art, is without limits.

**This presentation can be modified for an audience ranging in age from six to twelve years. Average duration is approximately 30-45 minutes, although it can be reduced or expanded accordingly.

**For expanded use of this book in the classroom, download our [free Teacher's Guide](http://www.arleneonthescene.com) at www.arleneonthescene.com.