Questions for Philosophical Discussion

by Lena Harwood

**The Nature of Prejudice**

1. What makes the Sneetches different from one another?
2. How do the Sneetches treat those who are different from them?
3. Do you think it is all right to treat those who look different than you differently? What about those who act differently?

**Distinctions of Difference**

1. What makes a Sneetch a Sneetch – what makes it different from other animals or things?
2. How do you know one thing is different from another thing? Is it based on things you can see, things you cannot see, or both?
3. Based on the qualities we chose for deciding what makes something different, are the Star-Bellied Sneetches and the Plain-Bellied Sneetches the same or different?
4. Are there things that make people different from one another? Do any of these things make certain people better than others? (Think about physical differences and personality/characteristic differences.)
5. Are there any situations in which it is okay to treat two things differently because they are different? Imagine that one person in class is really smart. Should they be treated differently? If not, are there any examples you can think of where you would treat someone differently?

**Distinctions of Difference Between the Sneetches**

*After the Plain-Bellied Sneetches go through the machine the first time and come out with stars, the Star-Bellied Sneetches say, “We’re still the best Sneetches and they are the worst.”*

1. What makes the Star-Bellied Sneetches think that there is still something different about the Plain-Bellied Sneetches since they now have stars on their bellies?
2. If there was something that made the Sneetches different, other than their appearance, would it be okay for them to treat each other differently?
3. Are there any qualities that would make that okay?
4. Is there a rule we can apply to determine when it is okay to treat others differently and when it is not?
5. How does this rule apply to the Sneetches?
6. Based on the rule you develop, is it okay for the Star-Bellied Sneetches to treat the Plain-Bellied Sneetches differently?