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Different Than You Are

Crispin believes he cannot improve himself. Bear argues with him, finally cutting his hair and making him wash his face. “Have you ever desired to be anything different from what you are?” Bear asks the boy.

Think about who you are. What traits do you appreciate about yourself? What aspects of yourself would you like to change? How would you go about changing the things you don’t like about yourself? Write your answers below.

List ten things you like about yourself.

1.
2.
3.
4.
5.
6.
7.
8.
9.
10.

List five things about yourself that you might like to change. After each, list one way you might go about making that change. Study the example below.

What I Would Like to Change	How I Might Make That Change
Example: I wish I could dance.	I could take a dance class or practice dancing at home in front of a mirror.
1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	
5.	

Field Trips and Class Visits

Now that your students have learned about the Renaissance world, they may enjoy taking one or more field trips related to those subjects. In addition, you may wish to invite guests to speak to your class. Choose an activity from the list below and locate the appropriate contact person in the phone book. Be sure to call at least three weeks in advance to give everyone plenty of time to prepare for the field trip or visit.

Renaissance Art

Plan a trip to the local art museum to study the sculptures of Cellini, Donatello, Ghiberti, and Verrocchio. Marvel at paintings by Botticelli, Da Vinci, Michelangelo, Raphael, Titian, Bruegel, and Van Eyck.

Madrigal Music

Does your community have a choir of madrigal singers? If so, invite them to come into your classroom for a performance, or take students to hear a concert. As an alternative, play madrigal music on tape in your classroom.

Astronomers

Copernicus and Galileo of the Renaissance era were crucial to the study of astronomy. Invite a local astronomer to speak about their contributions to this science, or take a trip to the local planetarium to learn about their important discoveries.

Professional Entertainers

Invite a professional children's entertainer to come to your classroom to teach students to juggle. Discuss the jesters of the fourteenth century in relation to contemporary entertainers. Ask your visitor to teach children Medieval songs and dances.

Living History

The Society for Creative Anachronism is an international organization dedicated to recreating pre-17th century European history. You can find a local chapter by telephoning (800) 789-7486 or writing to the society at:

Society for Creative Anachronism
P.O. Box 360789
Milpitas, CA 95036-0789

Renaissance Faire

Many towns and cities hold an annual Renaissance Faire, dedicated to recreating the sights, sounds, smells, and food of the Renaissance era. Locate the fair that is closest to you and invite students on a field trip, or ask fair vendors to visit your classroom in costume.

The Play Is the Thing

Shakespeare was the most prominent playwright of the Renaissance era. Take students to see a Shakespearean play, or watch videotapes of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Much Ado About Nothing*, or *Romeo and Juliet*.