



I am...

# Identity:

## Definition of Identity

Identity is the qualities, beliefs and personality that make up a person. It is a combination of all someone's past experiences, and how they will shape you in the future. An example "element" of identity is a persons values, like honesty. Someone may have this value as part of their identity because of an experience.

### What does identity consist of?

- Qualities
- Beliefs
- Personality traits
- Values
- Interests
- Talents
- Groups
- Self-perception
- How others perceive you

### Where does our identity come from?

- Genetics - **nature**
- family - **nurture**
- Experiences
- Location
- Education
- Activities
- Group membership

# *The Sneetches*

## *By Dr. Seuss*

[Sneetches read along](#)

Vocabulary words that apply to this story:

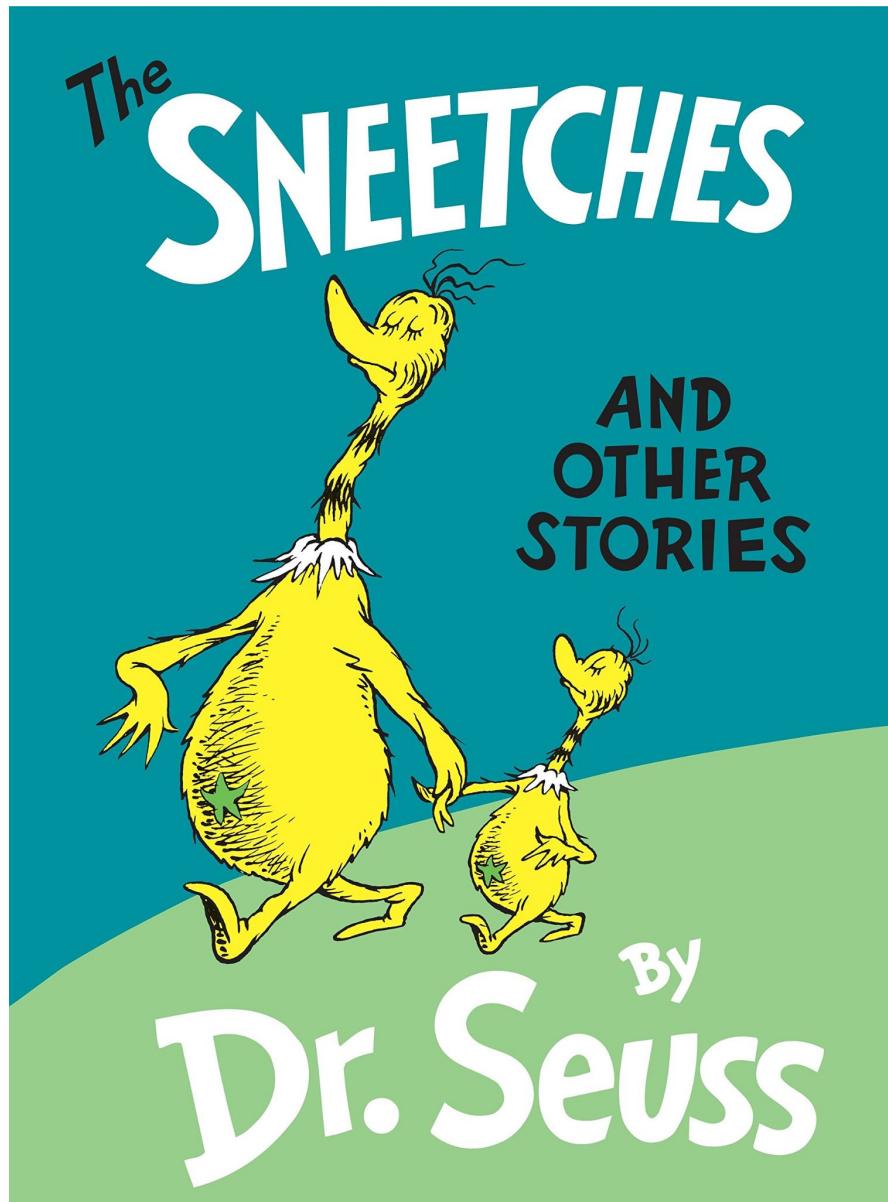
Discrimination: unfair treatment

Generalization: sweeping statement about a group, based on limited evidence

Bigotry: intolerance towards those who are different

Prejudice: an unjustified, negative attitude towards others

Stereotypes: oversimplified generalization.



**How were the young sneetches taught to hate the ones that were different?**

**Can identity be taught? learned?**

# The Bear that Wasn't

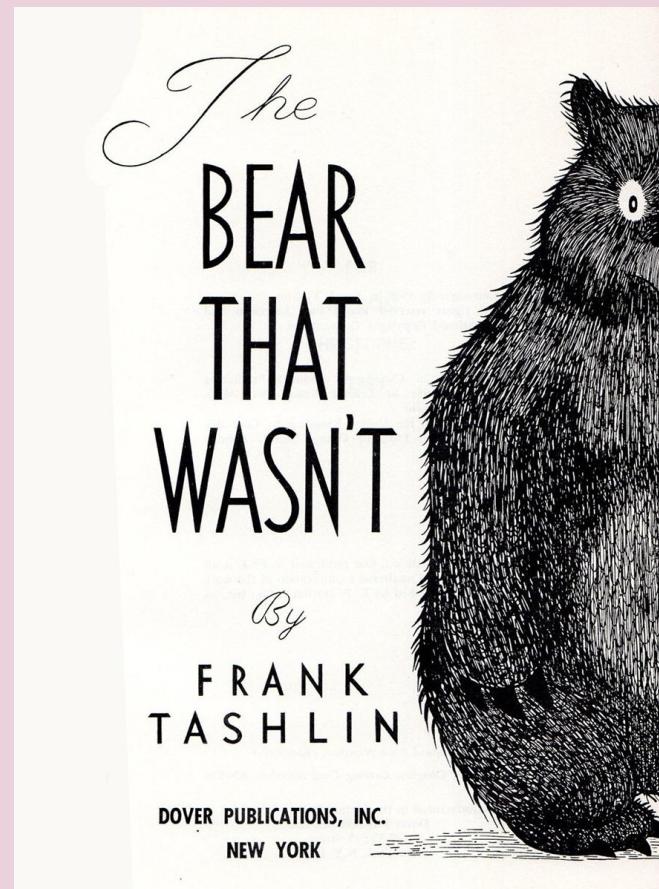
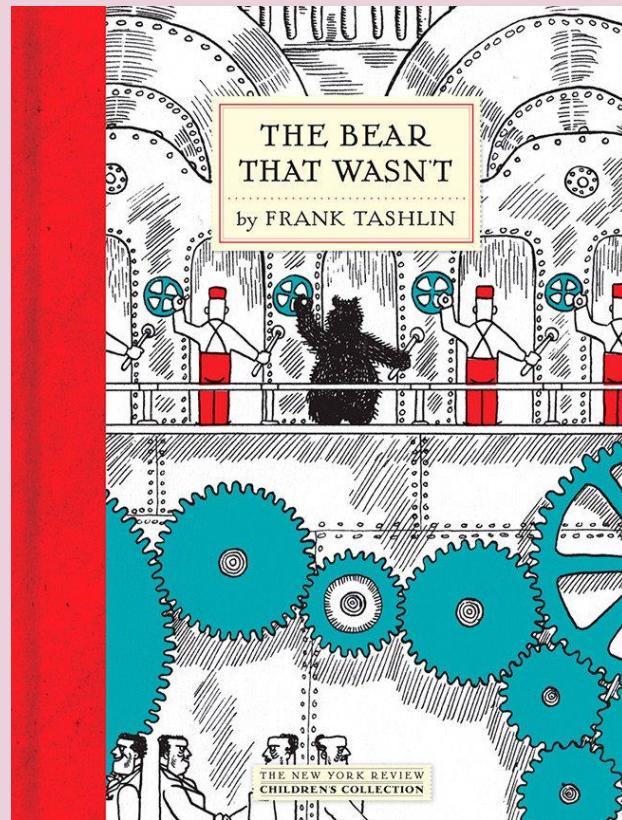
[The Bear that Wasn't video](#)

What does the title mean?

Why don't the factory officials recognize the bear for what he is?

Why does it become harder and harder for the bear to maintain his identity as he moved through the bureaucracy of the factory?

What does the story suggest about the relationship between the individual and society? About how identity is formed? How powerful individuals and groups shape the identity of those with less power?



# Identity:

*How is it formed?*

How does our identity influence the way we see ourselves and others?

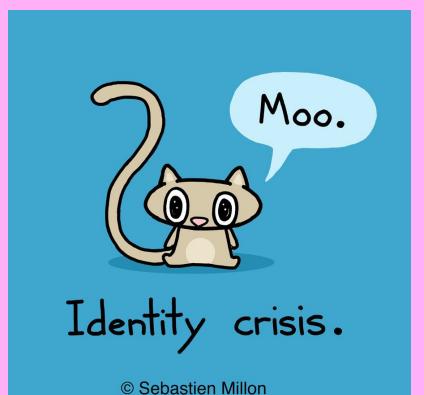


*What does it mean to belong to a group?*

How does a society decide who belongs and who does not?

How is membership defined in a group and by whom is membership defined?

*How can we keep our individuality and still be part of the group?*



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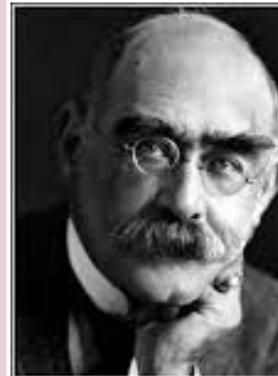
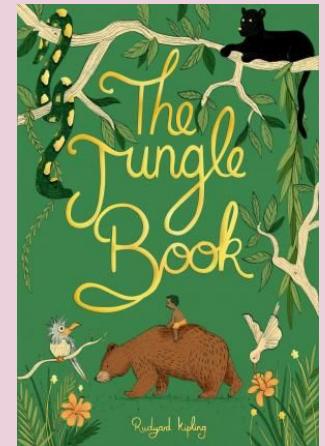
Father and Mother, and Me,  
Sister and Auntie say  
All the people like us are We,  
And everyone else is They.  
And They live over the sea,  
While We live over the way,  
But--would you believe it? --They look upon We  
As only a sort of They!

We eat pork and beef  
With cow-horn-handled knives.  
They who gobble Their rice off a leaf,  
Are horrified out of Their lives;  
While they who live up a tree,  
And feast on grubs and clay,  
(Isn't it scandalous? ) look upon We  
As a simply disgusting They!

We shoot birds with a gun.  
They stick lions with spears.  
Their full-dress is un-.  
We dress up to Our ears.  
They like Their friends for tea.  
We like Our friends to stay;  
And, after all that, They look upon We  
As an utterly ignorant They!

We eat kitcheny food.  
We have doors that latch.  
They drink milk or blood,  
Under an open thatch.  
We have Doctors to fee.  
They have Wizards to pay.  
And (impudent heathen!) They look upon We  
As a quite impossible They!

All good people agree,  
And all good people say,  
All nice people, like Us, are We  
And everyone else is They:  
But if you cross over the sea,  
Instead of over the way,  
You may end by (think of it!) looking on We  
As only a sort of They!



The individual has always had to struggle to keep from being overwhelmed by the tribe. If you try it, you will be lonely often, and sometimes frightened. But no price is too high to pay for the privilege of owning yourself.

— Rudyard Kipling —

AZ QUOTES

# “You've got to be carefully taught”

## Song from South Pacific

You've got to be carefully taught

You've got to be taught

To hate and fear,

You've got to be taught

From year to year,

It's got to be drummed

In your dear little ear

You've got to be carefully taught.

You've got to be taught to be afraid

Of people whose eyes are oddly made,

And people whose skin is a diff'rent shade,

You've got to be carefully taught.

You've got to be taught before it's too late,

Before you are six or seven or eight,

To hate all the people your relatives hate,

You've got to be carefully taught!

# Journal Reflective Us & Them

Reflect upon the quote below connecting the quote to what we have learned about in class today concerning identity and how we learn to hate. This should be one well-developed paragraph.

**“All the people like us are we, and  
everyone else is they.”**

- Rudyard Kipling



## Identity Charts:

- Was this exercise difficult? Did you add any negative characteristics?
- To what extent are we defined by our talents, interests, tastes, events? By our membership in a particular group based on religion, nationality, ethnicity, location?
- Do you think that your identity has changed and will change over time? When you look at this chart as a graduating senior, do you think you may have different labels?
- Do you think that any of your characteristics play a role in the groups you belong to?

