



Quirks and “Quoibles”

Talking with Kids about Diversity

In the Runt Farm books, the Runt Farmers learn how to pull together to outwit weasels and NAARFers.

They also learn about their quirks and “quoibles”!

- * Quoibles is a made-up word that means “quirks + foibles”
- * A **quirk** is something about somebody else that you think is kind of cute
- * A **foible** is something about somebody else that you wish they would change
- * The Runt Farmers find out that **quirks** can turn into **foibles** at the drop of a hat! Maybe something your friend did was cute, but later they do it again and you don’t like it at all!
- * Like when your friend Pippa Luisa stomps her foot and frowns to get her mom to give you both ice cream when it’s only 30 minutes until dinnertime – that’s a cute quirk! (*Yay, we got ice cream! Nice work, Pippa Luisa!*). But after you eat the ice cream, Pippa Luisa wants to wear your new bracelet, but you say no and she stomps her foot and frowns. (*Hey! I don’t have to share it! I already said “no”!*) You’re looking at that same **quirk**, only now it’s a **foible**.

Explore Your Quoibles: Talk It Over

You can get together with two other kids, or just with yourself! Think this over and talk about it a little.

Tip: Everybody has something interesting to say. Listening is a great way to learn what that is!

- Do you have a quoible – a quirk that sometimes turns into a foible? What is it?
- Does anybody in your family think you have a quoible?
- What is one of their quoibles, according to your perspective?
- Do you think it’s possible to turn a foible into a harmless quirk? How might that happen?