



## 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?