

# DISABILITIES

In 1965 students with muscular dystrophy and similar conditions needed special permission to attend public schools. When they did attend, there was little or no special assistance available, such as wheelchair ramps, wide doors, special vans for transportation, or reserved parking spaces.

**Q.** Discuss the changes that have taken place since 1965, designed to improve the lives of people confined to wheelchairs.

**Q.** In the story, no one restricts David from going anywhere or doing anything. How has that changed in today's world and what are the positive and negative results for the handicapped person?

**Q.** Mrs. Dahlke said in an interview, "I wasn't so concerned when David crashed in the wheelchair because it meant he was out there living life, like other boys his age." What do you think of that statement?



**Q.** What do you see as the main differences between a boy with AD/HD and one with muscular dystrophy? What are the similarities?

**Q.** Do you know anyone with muscular dystrophy? Explain how you perceive their disability and how you might treat them differently than you treat others.

**Q.** What do you think would be the most frustrating aspect of having a disease like muscular dystrophy?

**Q.** Does it improve the health of a community when children with disabilities are integrated into the schools and society? In what ways?

**Q.** Do you believe that when Lyle walked across the gym on his hands to raise money for muscular dystrophy that it helped David in some way? If so, how?

## DIFFERENT DRUMMERS

### Study Guide

AD/HD  
Disabilities  
David's Gift

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# AD/HD

The number of children being diagnosed with attention deficit hyperactivity disorder is on the rise, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. About 11 percent of children in the United States between the ages of 4 and 17 have been diagnosed with the condition.



**Q. Why is there such a dramatic increase in the diagnosis of AD/HD?**

**Q. Would you take medication for AD/HD if you were diagnosed with it? Why or why not?**

**Q. Would you give medication to your child if he/she were diagnosed with AD/HD? Why or why not?**

**Q. What are the advantages of altering behavior with medication? What do you see as the disadvantages?**

**Q. What do you think of the claim that AD/HD can be controlled with food choices, discipline, exercise and regular sleep habits?**



**3.5 million**

the number of children now taking AD/HD medication

**Q. Do you believe that medicating a child to alter his/her behavior will help the child reach their full potential? Do you believe that it will hinder them? Explain.**

**Q. In the story, the principal says she wants Lyle on medication to protect the other students from potential harm. Lyle's mother wants to stop the medication because she says, "I want my son back." Who is right?**

**Q. Should the school have the authority to require that a child be medicated to control behavior? Why or why not?**

**Q. If you were restricted to a wheelchair would you let someone push you to the top of a hill and ride down with you on the back? Do you think that was a courageous thing for David to do? Do you think it was reckless?**

# DAVID'S GIFT

When David was four he told his mother that God talked to him. He accurately predicted such things as the gender of a neighbor's baby, the death of Mrs. Mcguire and the recovery of Mrs. Greer from terminal cancer.

**Q. Do you think that God did talk to David? If not, what do you think are some possible explanations for his accurate predictions?**

**Q. Have you ever known a person with a gift like David's? If so, provide details.**

**Q. If your child announced that God talked to him/her, how would you react?**

**Q. Mrs. Dahlke said in an interview that she never questioned David about his relationship with God, never asked how he prayed and never tried to interfere or influence him. Do you think she made the right decision?**

**Q. After David almost drowned he told his mother, "I was almost there...and then He sent me back." Do you believe it's possible to see heaven and come back to life? Why or why not?**

**Q. As David was dying, he told his mother, "Don't cry for me. Promise me you won't cry." Why do you think it was so important to David that his mother not grieve for him?**

**Q. Just before David died he said to his mother, "I know where I'm going and I'm going to be okay." If you were dying, do you think you would be able to say that with the same confidence? Why or why not?**