



Reddy Cardinal and Dully Cardinal sit and talk in a tree.

Dully Cardinal (*admiringly*): I really like your bright red color. I feel that I should be that color too.

Reddy Cardinal (*sneers*): Well, you're just a girl. You're supposed to be a dull color and sit on eggs you lay.

Dully: What if I don't want to lay eggs and sit on them?

Reddy: Too bad! Females lay eggs and sit on them till they hatch.

Dully: And what is it that males do? Huh?

Reddy: We males fertilize the eggs so they become chicks. That's the fun part!

Dully: Not fair! I don't want to lay eggs . . . ever! That's not who I am.

Reddy: Another thing, we males are the state bird, not you dull females.

Dully: Not fair!

Dully Cardinal knocks on Teddy's office window.

Teddy: Come right in! I'm glad to see you, Dully!

Dully: I have a problem, Mr. Teddy.

Teddy: Tell me your problem and I'll try to help you.

Dully: Well, it's a little bit hard to explain. Red . . . bright red. . . I really feel like I'm bright red and not dull, reddish brown.

Teddy: Think! Is that how you really feel? Or do you just envy the color?

Dully: No, it's how I feel in my bones, in my heart. It's not just in my eyes. I want to change. I want to change my name too.

Teddy: I hear you saying that you are not comfortable in your own body.

Dully: You understand, Mr. Teddy!

Teddy: I think you should give this some time to make sure that you really want to change. If you are truly serious, you can go to a doctor for tests, hormone treatment and therapy.

Dully: I know that I want to be my real self and not hide it in the dark.

Teddy: You can probably predict that other kids will tease you and say mean things behind your back.

Dully: Y...es! I've watched kids being mean. Transgender – they sneer nastily.

Teddy: So let's talk about this again in a month, Dully.

Dully: I'm grateful for your help, Mr. Teddy. I'll come back to talk to you a month from today.



How do I treat people who are different? What do I want to change?

Name _____

date _____

Change

1. Who are the characters? _____

2. What is the setting? _____

3. How are male and female cardinals different? _____

4. How does Dully feel? What does she want to do? _____

5. How does Dully think other kids might react? _____

6. Why does Teddy want Dully to think about this for a month? _____

7. Writing. Text-to-self. Have you had a similar experience?

8. Writing. Stop and Think! How do I treat people who are different? What do I want to change?

