

UNDERSTANDING DIFFERENCES

Name _____ Date _____ Class Period _____

Successful People with Disabilities #2

Marlee Matlin

Magic Johnson

Patricia Polacco

Terence Parkin

Itzhak Perlman

Who is it? Read the description of the person below and write in the correct name from above.

1. He played for the National Basketball Association (NBA). He retired from professional basketball because a blood test revealed that he was infected with HIV. He established a Foundation to raise money to fund HIV and AIDS research, health services and education.

2. She is an actress and writer. She won an Academy Award for Best Actress in the film *Children of a Lesser God*. She became deaf when she was 18 months.

3. He is a world class complete swimmer. He competed in the 2000 Olympics in Sydney, Australia. He was born deaf. He uses sign language to communicate and a strobe light similar to a camera flash to signal the beginning of the race.

4. He is a world renowned violinist performing with every major orchestra in the world. He contracted polio at age 4, permanently paralyzing his legs. He performs his music while seated and walks with crutches.

5. She is a writer and illustrator of children's books. She did not learn to read well until after she was 14 years old when she was diagnosed as having dyslexia. A teacher was able to get the additional help she needed to overcome her reading problems. She has written a book about her experiences and the teacher who helped her. The book is titled *Thank You, Mr. Falker*.
