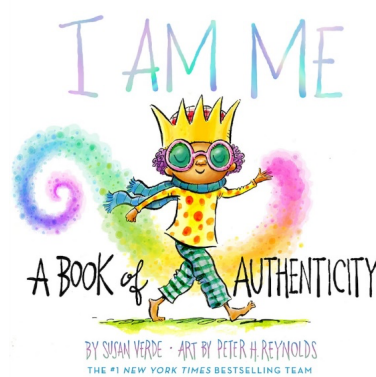




Author: Susan Verde

Illustrator: Peter H. Reynolds



WITS Connection: Walk Away X Ignore X Talk it out X Seek Help

Story Summary:

Sometimes the world can make us feel like we need to look or act a certain way. Sometimes we compare ourselves to others and feel like we need to try to fit in. Through this story we are encouraged to embrace our loud, authentic selves – to share our joy with the world around us! After all, difference is what makes life beautiful and each of us matters, just the way we are.

Teacher's Notes:

Resources:



Pre-Reading

Questions:

1. What are some of the ways we are all different from each other?
2. How does being different from others make you feel?
3. Imagine we were all the same (liked the same things, told the same jokes, had the same talents and skills, etc.). What do you think the world would look like?

While Reading

Questions:

1. What role do you think the lion in the story plays (or what does it represent)?
2. What words would you use to describe the main character in the story? What makes them special?
3. Why do you think the last few pages of the story are use only different shades of one colour and the final page is filled with colour? What could the illustrator be trying to tell us through their use of colour?

Commented [AS1]: Do you think this would be difficult for kids in K-3 to understand or for teachers to explain?

Commented [EL2R1]: Maybe! Changed monochromatic for something a bit more descriptive. Let me know if this works

Commented [GU3R1]: Thank you, that's great! So the question would be: "Why do you think the last few pages of the story only use different shades of one colour and the final page is filled with colour?"



While Reading Activity:

1. Instruct students to draw their reflection (option to print handout with outline of handheld mirror). Guide them to focus on drawing the parts of themselves that make them special and unique, inside and out.
 - They can use words and little drawings to illustrate parts of themselves you cannot see.
2. Pass the self-portraits around the room for other students to admire.
3. Lead a discussion with the class, encouraging students to celebrate the differences in the class (complimenting each other, noticing different skills and descriptive words, etc.).

Post-Reading

Questions:

1. How do you want to show up in the world? What words do you want people to use to describe you?
2. What WITS strategies can you use if someone is not accepting of difference, or how you show up in the world?
 - How could you use each of those strategies? What words could you say, or actions could you take? Who could you talk to?



Post-Reading Activity:

1. Read the Author's Note at the end of the story.
2. Guide students through the meditation within.
3. Lead a discussion with students about how the meditation left them feeling.

What thoughts did they have throughout?