Identity & Belonging Book Kit Contents

- 1 Set of Discussion Cards
- 4 Books:

Let us know what you think about this book kit! Scan the QR code to access our survey.
The aims of The Conscious Child: Family Book Discussion Kits are: 1) To celebrate diverse voices; and 2) to help facilitate family discussions about racial equity, identity, and justice. Included in this kit are discussion questions for each book, and a list of further recommended reading.

CHECK OUT THESE KITS TOO!

- Immigration & Refugees
- Joy & Self-Love
- Solidarity & Activism

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IDENTITY & BELONGING

Further Recommended Reading

- The Many Colors of Harpreet Singh by Supriya Kelkar
- Alma and How She Got Her Name by Juana Martinez-Neal
- What I Am by Divya Srinivasan
- Why Am I Me? by Paige Britt
- All Because You Matter by Tami Charles
- Leila in Saffron by Rukhsanna Guidroz

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**SULWE by Lupita Nyong’o**

**BEFORE READING:**

- Adults should research the term “colorism” prior to beginning this lesson plan. Scan QR code for a Tedx Talks video.
- Looking at the front cover, and the title, what do you think this book is about?
- What is the person doing? What are they feeling?

**DURING/AFTER READING:**

- Why does Sulwe want to change her skin color? How do you feel about that?
- How does Sulwe feel when she’s called names because of skin color? How would you feel?
- What did Sulwe learn from her dream and the sisters, Night and Day?
- What did you learn from the book?

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**HO‘ONANI HULA WARRIOR by Heather Gale**

**BEFORE READING:**

Adults and children should understand that hula is a way of storytelling. It’s the passing of tradition, culture, history, and beliefs from one generation to the next.

Use this book to help children learn to identify and celebrate various aspects of people’s identities—similarities and differences. Be careful not to encourage the concept of colorblindness (e.g. Avoid saying things like, “We are all the same on the inside.”)

**DURING/AFTER READING:**

- Ho‘onani does not feel like a girl or a boy but someplace in the middle. What are some other ways people find themselves in the middle?
- What do you think when you’re told that is something just “for boys” or “for girls”?
- Why do some parents feel it’s wrong for a girl to lead a group of boys?
- Ho‘onani says some encouraging words to help her. Who encourages you? What words do they use?
**WHERE ARE YOU FROM? by Yamile Saied Méndez**

**BEFORE READING:**
- Adults may want to familiarize themselves with the concept of **microaggressions** (Merriam-Webster definition: “A comment or action that subtly and often unconsciously or unintentionally expresses a prejudiced attitude toward a member of a marginalized group.”)

**DURING/AFTER READING:**
- The main character and her abuelo (grandfather) look like they don’t belong. Have you ever felt you don’t belong?
- How do you learn about where people are from?
- How can you share where you are from with others?
- Where are you and your family from? Write a poem or draw a picture that represents where you are from.

**YOUR NAME IS A SONG by Jamilah Thompkins-Bigelow**

**BEFORE READING TOGETHER:**
Read the book to yourself and out loud first to practice the pronunciation of the names mentioned in the book. Scan the QR code featuring the author, Jamilah Thompkins-Bigelow. Reflect on how the story teaches empathy by demonstrating the importance of correctly pronouncing names that may not be part of the dominant culture.

**DURING/AFTER READING:**
- How is Kora-Jalimuso feeling when her mom picks her up from school? Why does she feel that way? How does her mom help her?
- Have you ever felt like Kora-Jalimuso or known other kids who were teased or embarrassed by their names? What does Kora-Jalimuso teach her teacher and classmates when she has the courage to sing her name?
- Do you want to learn more about your own name after reading this book? Are you curious to learn more about other names too?