

IDENTITY & BELONGING

● Suggested for ages 4-7 ●

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

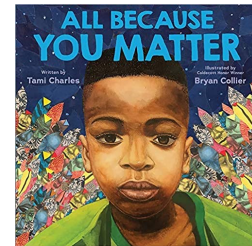
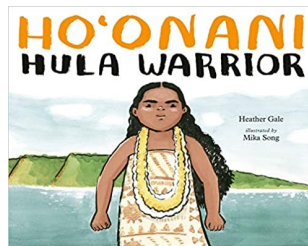
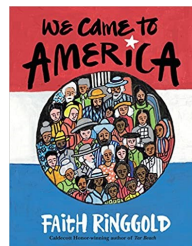
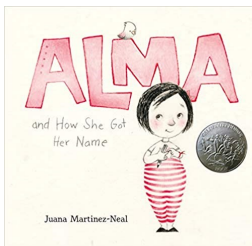
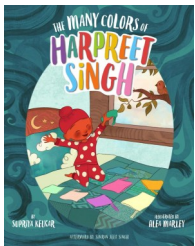


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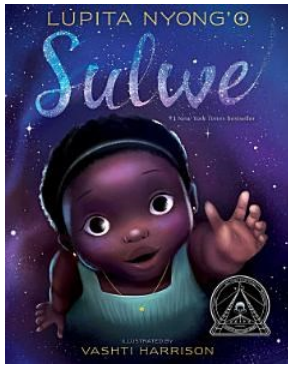


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IDENTITY & BELONGING: Further Recommended Reading



- **The Many Colors of Harpreet Singh** by Supriya Kelkar
- **Alma and How She Got Her Name** by Juana Martinez-Neal
- **We Came to America** by Faith Ringgold
- **Ho'onani: Hula Warrior** by Heather Gale
- **All Because You Matter** by Tami Charles
- **Your Name is a Song** by Jamilah Thompkins-Bigelow



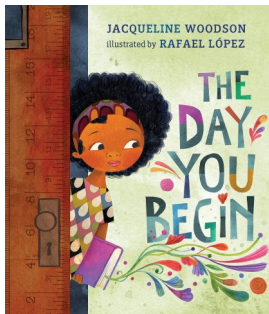
SULWE by Lupita Nyong'o

BEFORE READING:

- Adults may want to read the article “The Difference Between Racism and Colorism” (available at <https://time.com/4512430/colorism-in-america>) before sharing *Sulwe*.
- Discuss how skin color is determined by the amount of melanin in a person's skin.

DURING/AFTER READING:

- How does Sulwe feel about herself at the beginning of the book?
- Why does Sulwe dream of being the same color as her sister?
- How does Sulwe feel about the names people call her because of her skin color? How would you feel?
- How does Sulwe try to change her skin color? How did you feel reading about that?



THE DAY YOU BEGIN by Jacqueline Woodson

BEFORE READING: 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.”)

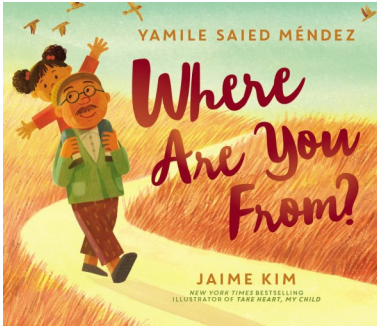
DURING/AFTER READING:

- Why does Angelina feel that no one is like her? Have you ever felt that way?
- In what ways do the other characters feel that no one is like them?
- Why do you think Angelina doesn't want to tell the other children about her summer at first? What happens when she does tell them about her summer? How does she feel after?
- How does the girl with the lunchbox feel when all the other children stare at her? Has something like that ever happened to you or someone at school?
- How did you feel when the book ended?



- What does Sulwe learn from her dream about the sisters, Night and Day?
- How does Sulwe feel about herself at the end of the book?
- Can you relate to Sulwe? If so, how?
- What did you learn from the book?

- How does sharing stories about ourselves help us connect to others?
- What do you think is the book's message?
- Why do you think Jacqueline Woodson chose to name the book *The Day You Begin*?



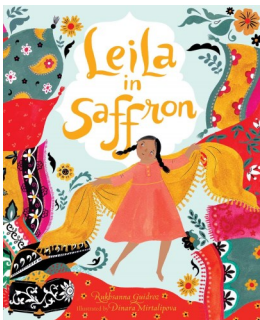
WHERE ARE YOU FROM? by Yamile Saied Méndez

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:

- How do you think the main character feels when people ask her "No, where are you really from?" How would you feel?
- Why does the main character feel that she and her abuelo look like they don't belong? Have you ever felt that you don't belong?
- What do you think the main character has learned about herself by the end of the book?
- Where are you and your family from? Write a poem and/or draw a picture that represents where you are from.



LEILA IN SAFFRON by Rukhsana Guidez

DURING/AFTER READING:

- At the beginning of the book, Leila says, "Sometimes I'm not sure if I like being me." Have you ever felt like that?
 - What does Leila do during her evening at Naani's? What does she learn about herself and her heritage?
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- Spend your day looking out for parts of yourself you like. Make a list!
 - Pretend you are going to take a trip to Pakistan. Research the country. What would you do on your trip? What food would you eat? What languages would you hear spoken there?