

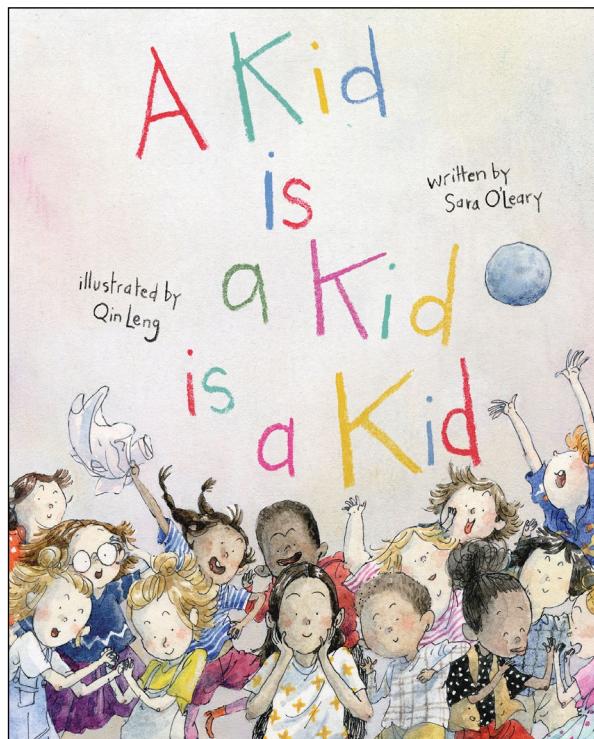


GROUNDWOOD STUDY GUIDES

A Kid Is a Kid Is a Kid

Written by Sara O'Leary

Illustrated by Qin Leng



In this companion to the enormously popular *A Family Is a Family Is a Family*, a group of kids share the silly questions they always hear, as well as the questions they would *rather* be asked about themselves.

CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS

Ages 3 to 6 / Grades PreK to 1

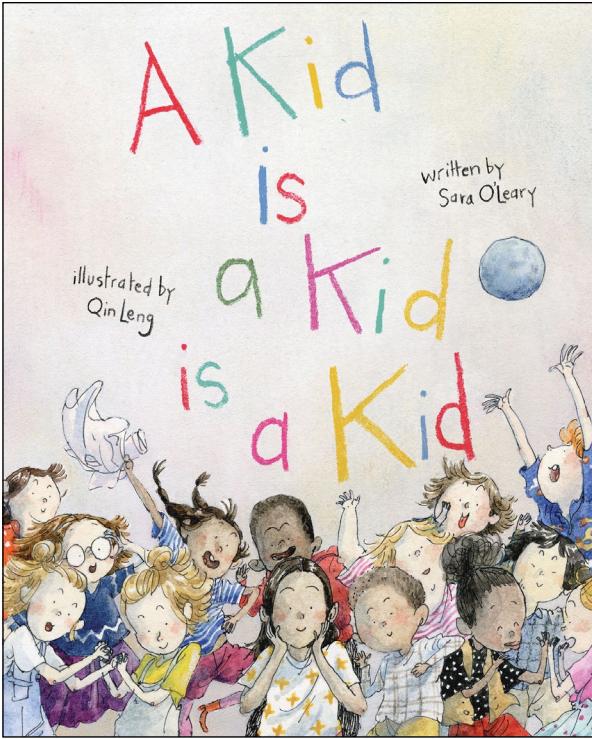
JUVENILE FICTION / Diversity & Multicultural / Disabilities & Special Needs / Social Themes / Friendship

Full-color illustrations throughout / 8.5 x 10 / 32 pages

Hardcover with jacket / \$18.99 / 978-1-77306-250-1

Ebook / 978-1-77306-251-8

groundwoodbooks.com



BOOK DESCRIPTION

“Being the new kid is hard,” a child in the school playground tells us. “I can think of better things to ask than if I’m a boy or a girl.” Another child is always asked why she has her nose in a book. Someone else gets asked where they come from. One after another, children share the questions they’re tired of being asked again and again — as opposed to what *they* believe are the most important or interesting things about themselves!

Sara O’Leary’s observant text and Qin Leng’s expressive illustrations tell a story about children who are all different, all themselves, all just kids. But there *is* one question they’d all be happy to hear: “Hey, kid! Do you want to play?”

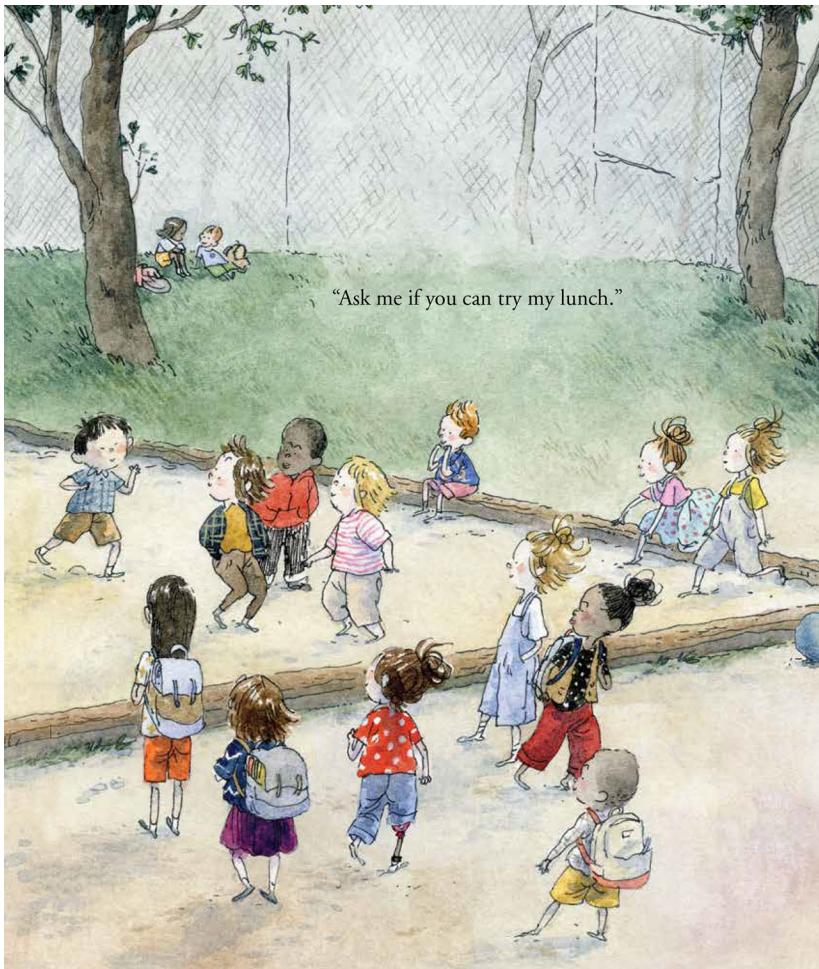
PRE-READING

INTRODUCE THE BOOK

Before reading the story, discuss the cover and the title. Use some of the following prompts to facilitate your discussion:

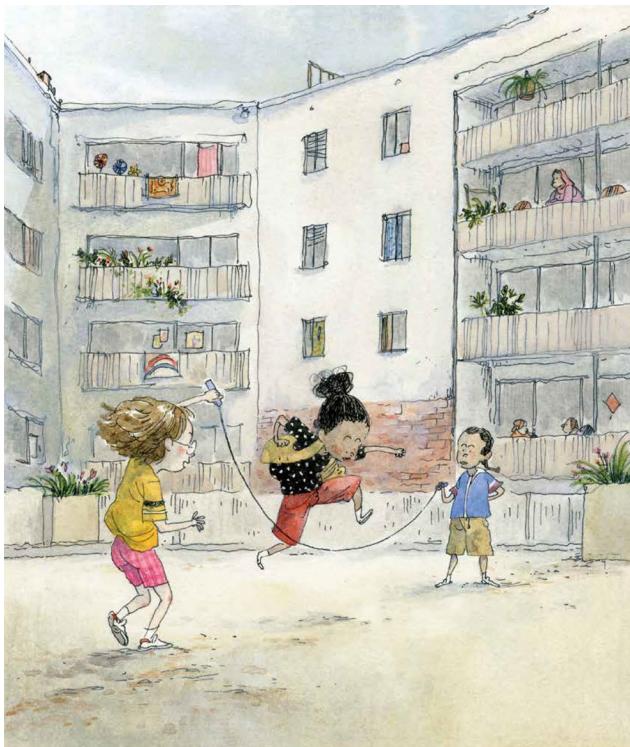
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- What do you notice about the illustration on the front cover? Look closely at the expression on the children's faces. How do you think they feel? Why?
- Make a prediction of what you think the book will be about.
- What does the title of the book mean? A kid is a kid is a kid.
- Why do you think the illustrator might have chosen many kids for the cover instead of using one kid on the cover?
- Have you ever been the “new kid” at school, in a neighborhood or in another setting? How did you feel? Why?



POST-READING DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- After reading the story, discuss the meaning of the title again. What do you think the author means when she says, “a kid is a kid is a kid”?
- Next, ask students if saying that a kid is a kid is the same as saying that there aren’t any differences in kids? Why or why not?
- As a class, discuss what the kids on each page are doing. Ask students to think about whether they seem happy or sad. Ask students to discuss if the differences between all of the kids are something to be worried about, or something to be celebrated. Ask students what makes them think this.
- Ask students to discuss how the “new kid” felt at the beginning of the story. How did they feel at the end of the story? Why?
- Encourage students to think of the ways the other kids make the “new kid” feel welcome.
- Discuss with students the commonalities of the kids, the differences and what the kids learned about each other?
- Discuss how the details in the illustrations help convey the meaning of the story. Have students explain how the illustrations help tell the story, citing specific places in the book.



EXTENSION ACTIVITIES

ME, MYSELF AND I

Ask students to choose something about themselves that makes them feel special. Have students create a piece of artwork celebrating how they are unique.

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WE ALL HAVE THINGS IN COMMON

Have students work with a partner. Ask each partner group to create a list of the things that the two of them have in common. They could also create a joint artwork to illustrate how they are alike.

TOO MANY QUESTIONS

Discuss the questions that the kids in the story felt were annoying. Next, talk about the questions that the kids would have rather been asked. Why? Finally, create a list of positive questions to ask others to find out more about them.

FLOWER GARDEN MURAL

Have students work on a class mural of a flower garden using a lot of different colors of paint for the flowers. After the mural is complete, have a class discussion about how ALL of the colors are bright and beautiful. Discuss how it is the differences between the colors that make the mural so interesting and vibrant.

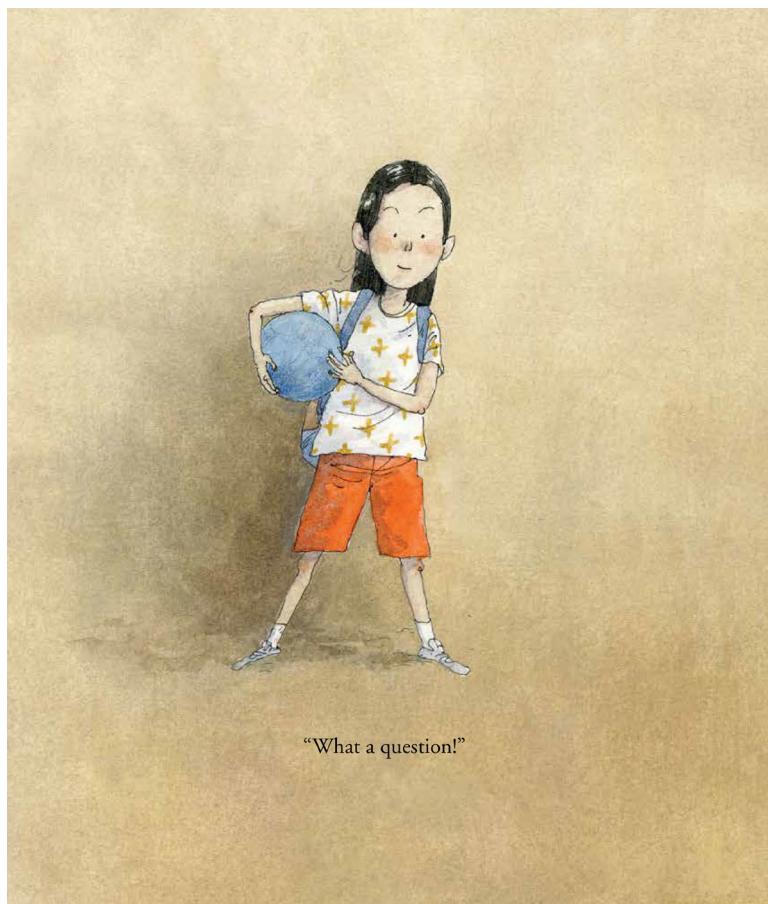
ACT I

Have students act out the story for another class or in an assembly. Encourage students to play the part of the character that they most identify with. Have students stress the character's unique abilities during reenactment. Coach students to use fluency and expression when speaking so that the audience can get the full meaning of the story. Provide props for each character.

MY NAME: ADJECTIVES FOR A UNIQUE ME

Have the students create adjectives from their own names. The students should come up with an adjective for each letter in their names. They can have fun coming up with the adjectives that they think best describe them.

For an added art activity, have students create a poster with their name on it and all of the adjectives that make up their acronym. Additionally, they can create a collage of their adjectives and pictures that represent those words.



AUTHOR AND ILLUSTRATOR BIOGRAPHIES



SARA O'LEARY is a writer of fiction for both adults and children. Her highly acclaimed picture books include *Percy's Museum*, illustrated by Carmen Mok; *Night Walk*, illustrated by Ellie Arscott; *A Family Is a Family Is a Family*, illustrated by Qin Leng (USBBY Outstanding International Books); and *Maud and Grand-Maud*, illustrated by Kenard Pak. She has also written *This Is Sadie* (adapted for the stage for New York City Children's Theater) and the award-winning series of Henry books, all illustrated by Julie Morstad. Sara writes for children's animation and teaches at Concordia University in Montreal, Quebec.



QIN LENG lives and works as a designer and illustrator in Toronto, Ontario. She graduated from the Mel Hoppenheim School of Cinema and has received many awards for her animated short films and artwork. Her picture books include *Hana Hashimoto, Sixth Violin* by Chieri Uegaki (APALA Award, Governor General's Literary Award finalist); *Away* by Emil Sher and *A Family Is a Family Is a Family* by Sara O'Leary (both USBBY Outstanding International Books); *When I Found Grandma* by Saumiya Balasubramaniam (Marilyn Baillie Picture Book Award finalist) and *I Am Small*, which Qin wrote and illustrated.