

10 Books Discussing Identities

1. Ho'onani: Hula Warrior (5+): By Heather Gale, Illustrated by Mika Song

This book, based on a true story, follows Ho'onani, Someone who is not Wahine(girl) or Kāne (boy), just Ho'onani. When Ho'onani hears that they are Looking for someone to lead a traditional Kāne chant at a school performance, they are determined to show everyone that they are the one to lead this chant.





2. From the Stars in the Sky to the Fish in the Sea (3+):

By Kai Cheng Thom, Illustrated by Kai Yun Ching and Wai-Yant Li

Ever since birth, Miu Lan has always been different and magical. They shift and change based on how they feel and what they need. As they face questions at school about where they belong, they find support in their mother's arms and through a song they share together.

3. Auntie Uncle: Drag Queen Hero (4+): By Ellie Royce, Illustrated by Hannah Chambers

Narrated by an adoring nephew, this story focuses on the nephew's Auntie Uncle, a drag queen who performs as Auntie Lotta and works as Uncle Leo in an accounting job. During a pride event, Lotta saves a dog. When the mayor announces their wish to give Auntie Lotta a medal, she worries that her friends who know her as Leo, and her friends who know her as Lotta won't get along. With the support of their nephew, they create a new look that is perfect for the event and find's support from all of their friends.





4. Born Ready: The True Story of a Boy Named Penelope (5+): By

Jodie Patterson, Illustrated by Charnelle Pinkney Barlow

Based on the real-life experiences of Penelope Patterson, this story shares Penelope's frustrations from being misunderstood by the world around him, to his success as he shows everyone who he truly is.

5. Jamie is Jamie (4+): By Afsaneh Moradian, Illustrated by Maria Bogade

Jamie is Jamie, and today is Jamie's first day of preschool. As they begin to play with all the toys, some other children are confused about Jamie's gender. Is Jamie a boy or a girl? This sparks conversations about gender stereotypes as the other Children in the story begin to learn that they all have the freedom to choose what to play with and that all toys are for all children.





6. <u>Phoenix Goes to School (4+)</u>: By Michelle and Phoenix Finch, Illustrated by Sharon Davey

This true story follows Phoenix, a young girl on her first day of school. Though she is nervous about being bullied she finds support from her teachers, family, and friends to express herself and be her true self.

7. <u>My Footprints (5+):</u> By Bao Phi, Illustrated by Ngoc Diep Barbra Tran

This Book follows Thuy, a Vietnamese American child who has been struggling with some bullies who have been making her feel "Double different". As she walks home she notices a bird and begins to explore what it would be like to be different animals, mimicking their footprints in the snow. When her moms find her the three of them think of different animals that are strong and brave, powerful and beautiful, just like Thuy.





8. My Maddy (5+): By Gayle E. Pitman, Illustrated By Violet Tobacco

Some mommies are girls, some daddies are boys, and some parents are neither a boy or a girl like the Narrator's parent Maddy. This book looks at all the different ways that we can be, and how some of the best things in the world are not one or the other. Some of them are in between or neither, and are entirely their own.

9. Jack (Not Jackie) (4+): By Erica Silverman, Illustrated by Holly Hatman

This book follows the story of Susan, a big sister that just loves her new sibling. But as Jack begins to grow and act in ways Susan doesn't expect, Susan has difficulty coming to terms with who Jack is versus who Susan was expecting them to be.





10. Red: A Crayon Story (5+): Michael Hall

This book is a beautiful story both for looking at gender identities, as well as disabilities. This book follows a blue crayon that was mislabeled as red. As a result, His family tries to help him be red, but nothing seems to work. As Blue struggles with his feelings and the expectations placed on him a friend comes and offers a new perspective, allowing blue to finally express his true self.