



## ***Rain School***

### **Reflect on the Story:**

- What did the children find when they arrived on the first day of school? What did they have to do after that?
- What happened on the last day of school?
- What kinds of things did the children learn from their school?

### **Reflect onto Self:**

- How was the school in the book different from your school? How was it the same?

### **Apply to the World:**

- How do you think schools all over the world are different? What do they have in common?
- Does anyone you know have to build their own school every year? Why is it different in Chad, where the books take place? Do you think it is fair that the children have to do that work before they can begin their classes?



## ***Dear Malala, We Stand With You***

### **Reflect on the Story:**

- Why was Malala shot for going to school?
- How did learning about what happened to Malala make you feel?

### **Reflect onto Self:**

- How would you feel if you were in a situation like Malala's and someone wanted to stop you from going to school, maybe even by hurting you?
- What would you say in a letter to Malala?

### **Apply to the World:**

- Do you think it is fair that some children are not allowed to go to school, or are in danger if they go to school? Why or why not?
- What are some things we can do to make sure children all over the world can safely get an education?



## ***When I Was Eight***

### **Reflect on the Story:**

- What was it like for Olemaun at her school? How was she treated, and how did she feel?
- How did the way the nuns treated Olemaun make *you* feel?
- Why do you think she stayed there even when she was mistreated? Why was it so important for her to go to school in the first place?

### **Reflect onto Self:**

- How do your teachers treat you where you go to school? How would it make you feel if you were treated the way Olemaun was? Do you think you would be able to stay at a school like Olemaun's?

### **Apply to the World:**

- If Olemaun's father hadn't allowed her to go to school, or if she had not been brave enough to stay there when she was mistreated, how would her life have been different?
- Is it fair that some children have to struggle so much to get an education?



## ***Waiting for the Biblioburro***

### **Reflect on the Story:**

- Why didn't Ana or the other children where she lives go to school? How do you think she feels about it?
- Why did Ana have to wait so long for the biblioburro to return? What did she do to help pass that time? What do you think she learned while she was waiting?

### **Reflect on Self:**

- What would happen if your teacher moved away? How is that similar to or different from what happened to Ana?
- Where are some places besides your school that you learn? What kind of things do you learn there?

### **Apply to the World:**

- Do you think learning can *only* happen inside a school? What are some other ways children learn?
- What do you think it would be like to live somewhere without access to school or books? Is it fair that some children can't access those things?



## ***Still a Family***

### **Reflect on the Story:**

- Where did the girl in the story live? Who did she live with?
- What kinds of things did her family do to show their love for each other?

### **Reflect onto Self:**

- What kinds of things do you have in common with the girl in the story? How were you different?
- What do you think it would feel like to live in a shelter like the girl in the story?

### **Apply to the World:**

- Why do you think someone might live in a shelter, like the girl and her family?
- What would happen to homeless families without shelters? Is it fair that some people don't have safe and comfortable places to live?



## ***Fly Away Home***

### **Reflect on the Story**

- Why did Andrew and his father live in the airport? What was their life like there?
- How did Andrew feel when he saw the bird trapped inside the airport? How did he feel when it got out? Why do you think he felt like that?

### **Reflect onto Self:**

- Andrew helped save up money for him and his father to find a place to live. Have you ever saved your money for something important? What was it?
- Andrew and his father had to be careful not to get caught living in the airport. How do you think you would feel if you were in Andrew's shoes? Would you feel scared or nervous?

### **Apply to the World:**

- Today there are new rules at airports that would make it even harder for homeless people to stay there. Where do you think they go to stay warm and safe instead?
- What are some reasons people might not have a place to live? How are some ways that our communities can help those people?



## ***Uncle Willie and the Soup Kitchen***

### **Reflect on the Story:**

- How does the boy in the story feel about the soup kitchen where Uncle Willie volunteers at the start of the story? How does he feel at the end? Do his feelings change?
- Why do you think it was so important to Uncle Willie to help out in the soup kitchen?

### **Reflect onto Self:**

- How was the meal served at the soup kitchen similar to a meal you might have at home? How was it different?
- What do you think it feels like to be unsure of where your next meal will come from? What about to not have somewhere safe and comfortable to live?

### **Apply to the World:**

- Why do you think some people might not have enough to eat or a place to live? Is that fair?
- Uncle Willie and his nephew help those people by volunteering at the soup kitchen. What are other ways our communities can help?



## ***Four Feet, Two Sandals***

### **Reflect on the Story:**

- Why were Lina and Feroza living in a refugee camp? What was their life like there?
- In what ways did Lina and Feroza take care of each other? How did their friendship affect their lives?

### **Reflect on Self:**

- Lina and Feroza didn't have very much, so the things they did have (like the sandals) were important to them. What things are important to you? What about people?
- How do you think it would feel to not only lose your home, like Lina and Feroza, but also move to a new and unfamiliar country?

### **Apply to the World:**

- Lina and Feroza lived in the refugee camp because they were displaced by war. Do you think people in countries that are not at war might be homeless too?





## ***Brave Girl***

### **Reflect on the Story:**

- What was it like for Clara to have to work in the clothes factory?
- What sort of things did Clara miss out on because she had to work? Do you think that was right or fair?

### **Reflect onto Self:**

- Do you ever help out with chores at home, maybe for an allowance? How is that different from Clara working at the factory?

### **Apply to the World:**

- What does it mean when someone goes on strike? Why do you think someone might do it?
- In the book, some people thought Clara and the other workers wouldn't be able to change anything because they were girls. Do people still think like this? Is that fair?



## ***Click Clack Moo***

### **Reflect on the Story:**

- What did the cows in the story want? How did they get it?
- How did the cows' strike affect the people and other animals on the farm?

### **Reflect onto Self:**

- Having electric blankets was important to the cows. What kinds of things are important for you to have to be happy and healthy?

### **Apply to the World:**

- The cows and hens' strike worked because they all worked together. What are some ways you can work together with people in your community to change something for the better?



## ***Sí Se Puede***

### **Reflect on the Story:**

- Why do Carlitos mother and the other janitors in Los Angeles go on strike?
- What does Carlitos do to help encourage his mother? How does it make her feel?

### **Reflect onto Self:**

- Carlitos doesn't see his mama very often because she works at night and every weekend. How often do you see your parents or guardians? How would you feel if you didn't see them very often, like Carlitos?

### **Apply to the World:**

- Why did Carlitos' mother help with the hotel cleaners' strike after the janitors strike was over and they had gotten their raise?
- How do you think having lots of different people working together makes it easier to change things and make things fairer for everyone?



## ***Sit In***

### **Reflect on the Story:**

- What were the protestors' goals for the sit in? Do you think it was only about lunch counters?
- How do you think the protestors felt while they sat at the lunch counters? If they were scared, why do you think they stayed anyway?

### **Reflect on Self:**

- The protestors in this book staged their sit ins because they knew segregation was unfair, even if it was the law. Have you ever had to stand up for something you believed was right? What was it like? How did you feel?
- What things can we all do to make sure people of all races (and all other identities) are treated equally and fairly?

### **Apply to the World:**

- The protests in the book took place more than 50 years ago; do you think things have changed since then? Are people of all races treated the same today?
- Can you think of any similar protests that have taken place recently?



## ***Stella Brings the Family***

### **Reflect on the Story:**

- How was Stella's family different from her classmates' families? How were their families similar?
- How did Stella feel when she found out her class was having a Mother's Day celebration? Did she feel differently after she brought her dads to class?

### **Reflect onto Self:**

- Who makes up your family?

### **Apply to the World:**

- What kinds of things are important in a family? What kinds of things aren't?



## ***My New Mom and Me***

### **Reflect on the Story:**

- How are the mother and her child in the story alike? How are they different?
- How does the child feel at the beginning of the book? Does he feel differently by the end?

### **Reflect onto Self:**

- What sorts of things do you have in common with your parents or other members of your family? How are you different?
- Have you ever been in a new situation where you were unsure or worried? What was it like? What helped you to feel better?

### **Apply to the World:**

- What are some reasons a parent might adopt a child?



## ***Star of the Week***

### **Reflect on the Story:**

- What is unique about Cassidy-Li and her family? Who makes up her family?
- How do you think Cassidy-Li felt about not knowing much about her birth parents?

### **Reflect onto Self:**

- What special things about yourself and your family would you share if you were Star of the Week?

### **Apply to the World:**

- What kinds of things are important in a family? What kinds of things aren't?
- What are some reasons that parents might adopt a child?



## ***Donovan's Big Day***

### **Reflect on the Story:**

- What is Donovan's role on the big day? How does he feel about his job?
- What is the feeling or tone of the book? How do Donovan and the rest of his family feel about the big day?

### **Reflect on Self:**

- There are lots of members of Donovan's extended family visiting for the wedding. Who makes up your extended family? Is it big or small?
- Have you ever had an important job to do like Donovan? What was it like?
- Why do you think Donovan's moms wanted to get married?

### **Apply to the World:**

- Donovan's family has two mothers in it who both love him very much. Do you think the gender of his parents is important? If not, what is important?
- Is it ever okay to judge what someone's family looks like? How can we be respectful and kind to everyone and their families?





## ***Luna & Me***

### **Reflect on the Story:**

- How do you think Butterfly felt while she was living in Luna? If she felt scared sometimes, why do you think she stayed in Luna anyway?
- Why do you think the other people wanted to cut down Luna?

### **Reflect onto Self:**

- Luna is very important to Butterfly. What (or who) in your life is important to you?
- Have you ever needed to protect or stand up for someone or something that couldn't stand up for itself? What was it like?

### **Apply to the World:**

- What would happen if people like Butterfly didn't try to protect the environment?
- Luna is just one tree – would it have mattered very much to cut down just one tree?



## ***Wangari's Trees of Peace***

### **Reflect on the Story:**

- How do you think Wangari felt when she returned home to Kenya and found all the trees were gone?
- How did losing the trees affect the people from Wangari's home?
- Wangari says that "Right is right, even if you're alone." Do you think that is true? Why or why not?

### **Reflect onto Self:**

- What would it be like if there were no trees or plants where you live?
- Many people told Wangari her plan would not work. Has anyone ever told you that you couldn't do something? How did that make you feel?

### **Apply to the World:**

- What are some ways you can help keep the environment where you live healthy?



## ***The Curious Garden***

### **Reflect on the Story:**

- What made Liam different from the rest of the people in the city where he lives?
- How did the city change from the beginning of the story to the end?

### **Reflect onto Self:**

- When have you tried something new (like Liam tries with gardening)? Were you good at it right away, or did you have to keep trying and learning?
- Both Liam and the garden he plants are curious and like to explore the world around them. Do you like to explore? Why? What can you learn from exploring new places?

### **Apply to the World:**

- Who takes care of the environment where you live – around your house, around town, etc.? How could you help?
- What would happen if no one helped care for the environment like Liam does? How would that affect you and the people in your community if it happened where you live?



## ***The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind***

### **Reflect on the Story:**

- Where does William go to learn how to build things once he can no longer go to school?
- How did William's invention help his community?

### **Reflect on Self:**

- Have you ever invented or built something? How did it make you feel?
- How would it feel to not have enough food to eat and not be able to go to school?

### **Apply to the World:**

- There are many people who, like William, don't always have enough to eat and can't go to school. Is that fair? What can we do to help make sure everyone has equal opportunities?
- William uses pieces from the junkyard to build his windmill. How else can we reuse things instead of just throwing them away? How does that help the environment and our community?



## ***Planting the Trees of Kenya***

### **Reflect on the Story:**

- How had Kenya changed when Wangari returned? How did that affect the people who lived there?
- What were some of the barriers or obstacles to Wangari's plan? How did she overcome them?

### **Reflect onto Self:**

- Many people thought Wangari's plan couldn't succeed because the planters were women who couldn't read or write. What do you think it feels like to be told you can't do something because of who you are?
- What would your community look like if all the trees were cut down? How would that affect you and the people who live there?

### **Apply to the World:**

- Who takes care of the environment where you live – around your house, around town, etc.? How can you help?
- What are some good things about where you live (Enough food to eat? Trees? Schools to attend?) Does everyone have access to these things?



## ***One Plastic Bag***

### **Reflect on the Story:**

- What happens when Ceesay's neighbors begin throwing their plastic bags on the ground? How does it affect their community?
- How do Ceesay's neighbors react when she begins her plan for the plastic bags?

### **Reflect onto Self:**

- Do you use plastic bags at the grocery store? Do you know what happens to them after you use them?
- Ceesay learns how to crochet to solve the problem of the plastic bags. Do you have a hobby or skill like crocheting? How could you use that to help solve a problem where you live?

### **Apply to the World:**

- Do you think one plastic bag makes a difference when it is thrown on the ground? What about two or three? What if everyone in a city throws one on the ground?
- Ceesay reuses the plastic bags and makes them into something new. How else can we reuse things instead of just throwing them away? How does that help the environment and our community?



## ***Green Lizards vs. Red Rectangles***

### **Reflect on the Story:**

- What was the reason the green lizards and the red rectangles were at war? Was it ever explained? Do you think they knew?
- What solution did they reach to live together peacefully?

### **Reflect onto Self:**

- The rectangles and lizards worked together to find a solution that made everyone happy. Have you ever done that with someone you know? How did it turn out?

### **Apply to the World:**

- It only took one red rectangle who called for a truce to help end the fighting. Do you think that is true for people?
- Would you rather live in a peaceful world where everyone works together and treats each other with kindness, or one where there is fighting and anger? Why?



## ***Can You Say Peace?***

### **Reflect on the Story**

- What do you think “peace” means?
- What kinds of things did you see in the illustrations that showed peace?
- The children in the book spoke many different languages and lived in many different places. What kinds of things do you think they had in common?

### **Reflect onto Self:**

- What does peace mean to you? What makes you feel safe and happy? What makes you feel the opposite of that?

### **Apply to the World:**

- How can we treat each other to help make sure everyone is safe and happy?
- Do you think everyone around the world lives in peace? Why or why not?
- What kinds of things stop us from having peace?





## ***Grandfather Gandhi***

### **Reflect on the Story:**

- What was it like in Grandfather Gandhi's service village? How did Arun struggle to fit in?
- What happens when Arun gets angry with the boy he plays soccer with? What advice does Grandfather Gandhi give him?

### **Reflect onto Self:**

- How do you think you would handle being in the village from the story? Would it be easy, or would it be a struggle like it was for Arun?
- When do you feel angry? What can you do with that anger to use it for something good instead of hurting someone or acting violently?

### **Apply to the World:**

- What did you know about Gandhi before reading this story? What did he work towards?
- What happens when people let their anger turn into lightning, like Gandhi describes in the story? What about if they use it like a lamp?



## ***The Enemy***

### **Reflect on the Story:**

- What was the soldier told about his enemy? Was that information right or wrong? How?
- What did the two soldiers have in common?

### **Reflect on Self:**

- The soldier realizes he was wrong about the enemy once he gets to know him a little better. Have you ever thought something about someone that turned out to be incorrect once you got to know more about them?

### **Apply to the World:**

- When the story ends, we don't know if the soldiers agree to stop fighting or not. Do you think they should? What do you think happens next?
- What would the world be like if we all treated each other like enemies?



## ***Hello Goodbye Dog***

### **Reflect on the Story:**

- How was Zara the same as the other children in her class? How was she different?
- How did having Moose around help Zara?

### **Reflect onto Self:**

- What are some people or things that help you feel comfortable or safe?
- How do you feel when you have to say goodbye to someone special to you?

### **Apply to the World:**

- Having Moose come to school with her helps Zara feel safe and comfortable. What are some ways we can all help our friends and neighbors feel like that?



## ***All Kinds of Friends, Even Green***

### **Reflect on the Story:**

- Who were some of Moses' friends that he thought about writing about?
- Why do you think Moses chose to write about Zaki? What makes Zaki special to Moses?

### **Reflect onto Self:**

- Moses has friends that are like him and are different from him. Who are some of your friends? How are you alike? How are you different?
- Who would you write about if you were in Moses' class? What makes them a special friend?

### **Apply to the World:**

- Sometimes Moses needs some help from his friends
- Moses has all kinds of friends, including other kids, grown-ups, and animals; some of them are disabled like he is, and some are not. Why is it a good thing to have friends that are not exactly like you?



## ***Emmanuel's Dream***

### **Reflect on the Story:**

- What was different about Emmanuel when he was born? How did that affect him as he grew up?
- Why did Emmanuel decide to ride his bike all the way around Ghana? What did he accomplish by doing it?

### **Reflect onto Self:**

- Have you ever faced a challenge like Emmanuel did? What was it? How did you overcome it?
- How do you feel when you achieve something big like Emmanuel did on his bicycle ride?

### **Apply to the World:**

- Emmanuel wanted to show people that “disabled” is not the same as “unable.” Can you think of other examples of how this is true?



## ***Since We're Friends***

### **Reflect on the Story:**

- What are some things Luis needs help with? How does Tuesday help him with those things?
- How do you think having Tuesday as a service dog has changed Luis' life since he was injured?

### **Reflect on Self:**

- Do you have a dog as a pet (or know somebody who does?) How is a pet similar to a service dog like Tuesday? How are they different?
- Luis needs Tuesday's help throughout the day. What are some things you need help with?

### **Apply to the World:**

- Do you think everyone has certain things that they need extra help with? What are some ways we can accommodate other people's needs?



## ***My Brother Charlie***

### **Reflect on the Story:**

- How were Callie and Charlie alike? How were they different?
- What is the name of Charlie's condition? How does it affect him?

### **Reflect onto Self:**

- How does it make you feel when someone treats you unkindly because of the ways you are different?
- Do you have siblings? How are you alike? How are you different?

### **Apply to the World:**

- Charlie tells his family he loves them in ways that don't use words. What are some ways we show people that we care about them every day?
- Do you think all people with autism are just like Charlie?



## ***All My Stripes***

### **Reflect on the Story:**

- What kind of day did Zane have at school? What happened to make him feel that way?
- What sort of things did Zane have in common with his classmates?

### **Reflect onto Self:**

- What kind of “stripes” do you have that make you special?

### **Apply to the World:**

- What are some ways we can be kind and helpful to someone? Should we always be kind and helpful, especially when someone is different from us?
- Do you think it’s a good thing that all of us have different “stripes”? Why?





## ***Russell's World***

### **Reflect on the Story:**

- What are some ways Russell is different from his brothers? What is it about Russell that makes him different and special?
- How did Russell's brothers and family make sure he felt safe and happy?

### **Reflect onto Self:**

- Do you have siblings? In what ways are you and your siblings (or the rest of your family) alike? How are you different?
- Russell has a lot of special interests in the book. What kinds of things are you interested in or good at that not many other people are?

### **Apply to the World:**

- Is "different" a bad thing? What would the world be like if everyone was exactly the same?
- What are some ways that we can be kind and welcoming to everyone?



## ***Since We're Friends***

### **Reflect on the Story:**

- What are some of the ways that the main character helps his friend Matt?
- Do you think Matt and his friend were more alike than they were different? In what ways?

### **Reflect on Self:**

- Do you have anything in common with Matt? What types of things?
- Matt and his friend help each other a lot in the book. What kind of things can you help others with? What kind of things do you need help with?

### **Apply to the World:**

- Why is it important for us to be friends with people who are different from us?



Discussion tips:

- Try to encourage equal participation as much as you can! Some children will inevitably contribute to the discussion more than others, and that's okay, but whenever possible feel free to encourage everyone's voice to be heard. If one voice is dominating the conversation, it's okay to say something like "I'm so glad you have so much to share! I hope you'll tell me more about it later, but I also want to make sure all of our friends get a chance to talk."
- It's okay to use these questions as a guide rather than a check-list – you don't need to ask all of them or proceed in a strict order if your group's discussion is proceeding organically.
- Open-ended questions rather than questions that can be answered with "yes" or "no" will lead to richer and deeper discussions and concepts. If you do have some yes/no questions, make sure you follow up with the group and encourage them to explain or expand on their answers.
- Emphasize empathy, understanding, and kindness for all!