



Writers Matter

RESET CURRICULUM
2020-2021

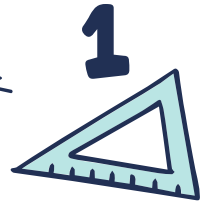


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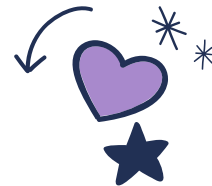


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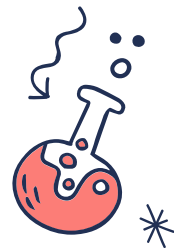
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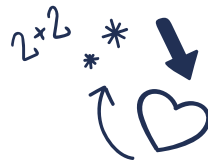
Elementary Version



With all the uncertainties of our last school year and the beginning of this one, let's all **RESET** together.



Let's start by taking these steps:



1

BE SAFE

The feeling of safety is essential especially in these times.

2

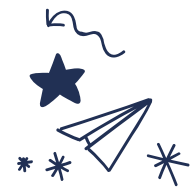
COLLABORATE

We are all in this together so let's work together.

3

SUPPORT

In discussing the following topics, students need to know they are supported in expressing their opinion.



INTRODUCTION TO THESE SLIDES

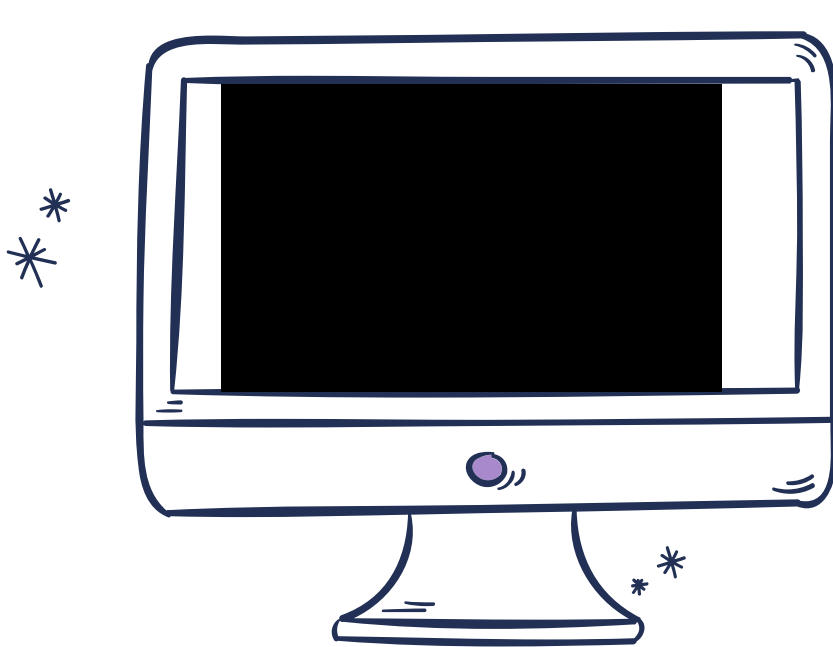


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IT ALL STARTS WITH A
SMILE.

3

THE SKIN I'M IN

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WHERE DO WE GO
FROM HERE?



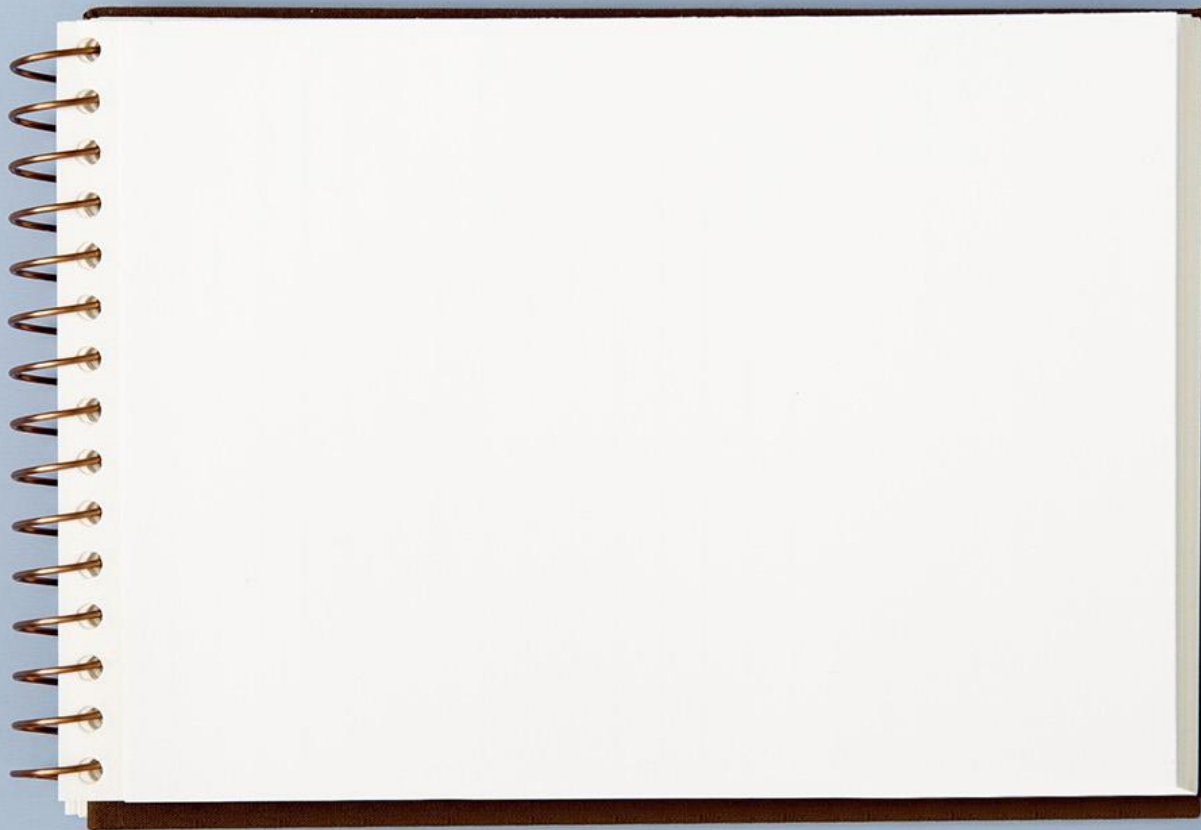
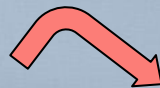


SAFE?

All of us have been thinking about how we can keep ourselves and our families safe. These activities will explore the topic of what it means to be and feel safe.



Watch this video and write your reactions below.

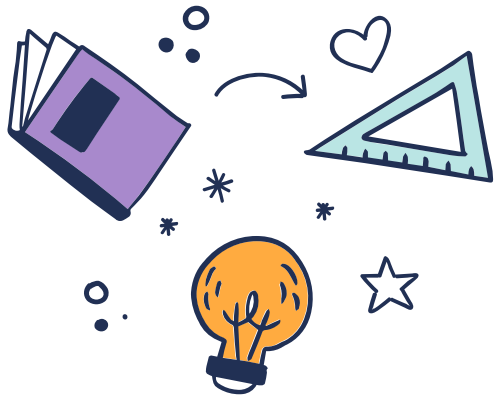


Inspired by Keedron, write your own poem starting with
the line: I AM A YOUNG...

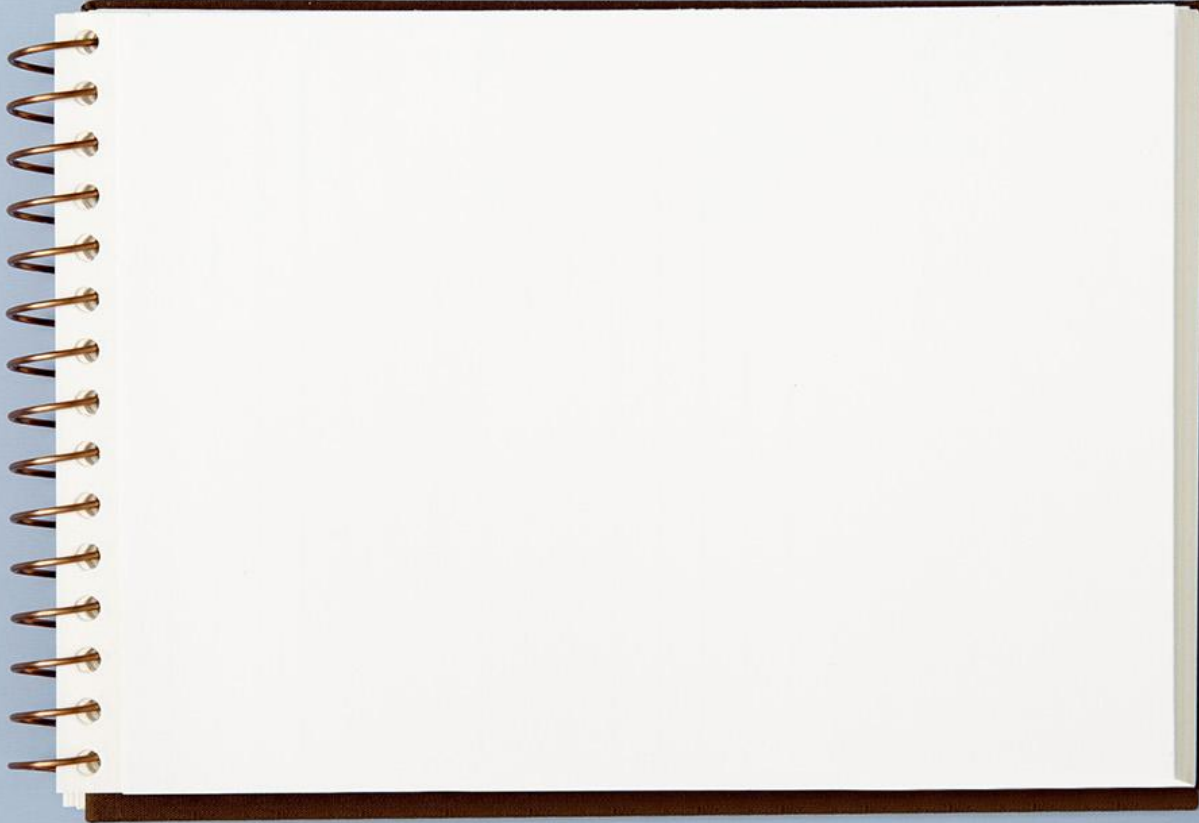


Why is **BLACK LIVES MATTER** so important now? 

This video of parents speaking to their children about safety might help answer that question.



Have your parents ever had a serious talk with you about your safety?
If yes, why do you think they did? If not, why do you think they haven't?



Mother to Son

BY LANGSTON HUGHES

Well, son, I'll tell you:
Life for me ain't been no crystal stair.
It's had tacks in it,
And splinters,
And boards torn up,
And places with no carpet on the floor—
Bare.
But all the time
I'se been a-climbin' on,
And reachin' landin's,
And turnin' corners,
And sometimes goin' in the dark
Where there ain't been no light.
So boy, don't you turn back.
Don't you set down on the steps
'Cause you finds it's kinder hard.
Don't you fall now—
For I'se still goin', honey,
I'se still climbin',
And life for me ain't been no crystal stair.

The famous poet, Langston Hughes, wrote a poem many years ago entitled “Mother to Son”. It, too, was a speech a parent gave to her son about how life can be hard sometimes. Here is Martin Luther King Jr. reciting Hughes’ words. Think about how the poem relates to the last video and to the current Black Lives Matter movement.



This is a song called, "Dear Black Son" by a rapper named Brother Ali. He wrote the song for his own son. The performance is on this slide; the lyrics are on the next slide.



Dear Black Son, there's people you've never met
Who fear and hate you for something that you never did
And these people are so self-convinced
Sometimes they pull the trigger, call that self-defense
And in that sad insanity
Their fear is realer to them than your humanity
But that's their problem, it's not yours
Listen to your pop for a second
These are the confessions of a father broken hearted
Who don't know how to pull his only son out of a target
They lied when they said it was the bottom where you started
You were a king long before them ships departed
You are not defined by anybody else's crimes
You don't need to answer for what happens in their minds
You are not confined by their imaginary lines
You don't need permission to exist with the divine
In fact, you don't need permission from no one including me
You need not do anything but be, just breathe
Whatever you dream let it mean you're free
Tears on your cheek never made nobody weak
Sometimes we got to grieve let it burn, let it bleed
Then let yourself heal, pray to God that it will
You've got a spirit that a bullet can't kill

That doesn't make it any less real one

**They say it takes a man to raise a man
You're slipping through my hands like grains of sand
And here I stand, tryna wrestle with the hourglass
Maybe see how long I can make an hour last
Raising a man, who's slipping through my hands like grains of sand
And here I stand, tryna wrestle with the hourglass
Maybe see how long I can make an hour last
Dear Black Son**

Dear Black Son, I can't protect you like I want to
never judge you, all I can do is love you
And that's all anyone can ever do is love you
All I can do is wonder how can anyone not love you?
They recognize divine in you
So they try to find themselves by defining you
They're living in a myth that they don't want to lose
And now they're too terrified to face your kind of truth
But every single time you shine it's proof that they might've threw a chain
around your body, never conquered you
They don't always honor you but they love your culture
Let me show you how to move when the laws approach you
It's best to keep your hands where they can see them
And try to understand that you're not even what they're peeping
hey don't see a sweet kid that loves his little sister
Their mind is seeing five hundred years of pictures
In fact, they don't visualize a kid
They see grown man imagery, mythic masculinity
But you are not their fetishes or fears
Nor my ambition and tears, nothing can interfere
We've got to trust our seeds once we sow them
We hold them when they're growing
But we never really own them
We love up on them, play with 'em, pray for them
And cling very closely to them moments
They say it takes a man to raise a man
ou're slipping through my hands like grains of sand
And here I stand, tryna wrestle with the hourglass
aybe see how long I can make an hour lasts
Raising a man, who's slipping through my hands like grains of sand
And her I stand, tryna wrestle with the hourglass
Maybe see how long I can make an hour last

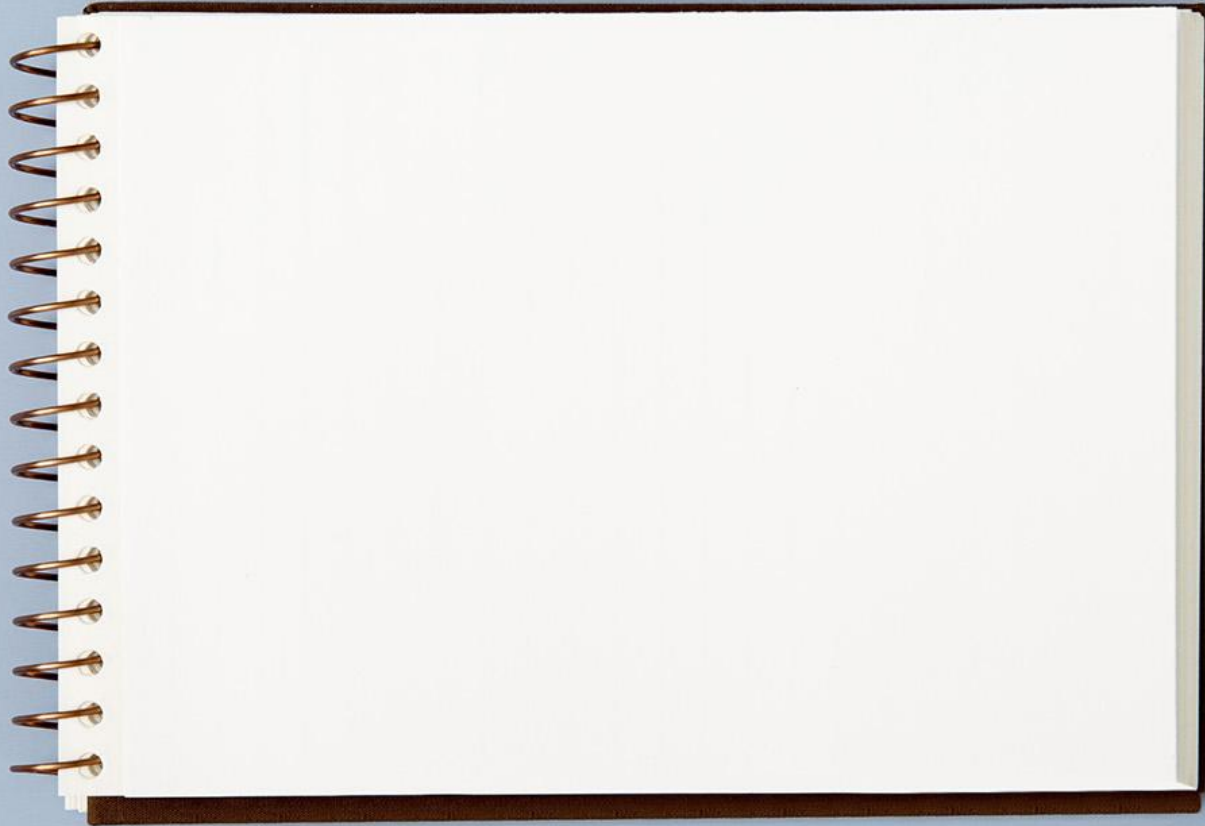


Feel free to
highlight
some of
your
favorite
lines.





Think about the connections you had in your own life to both videos. Could you write a poem entitled “Mother to Son” or “Mother to Daughter” or “Father to Son” or even “Dear Son/Daughter”?



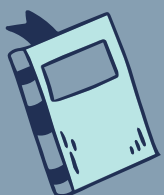
Think about what advice you would give your children to be safe today if you were a parent.



Challenges



B



3



2



A

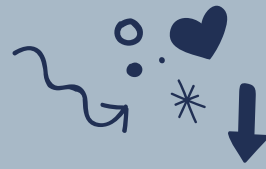


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1





Think about safety

- At home
- At school
- At the park
- After-school
- With friends

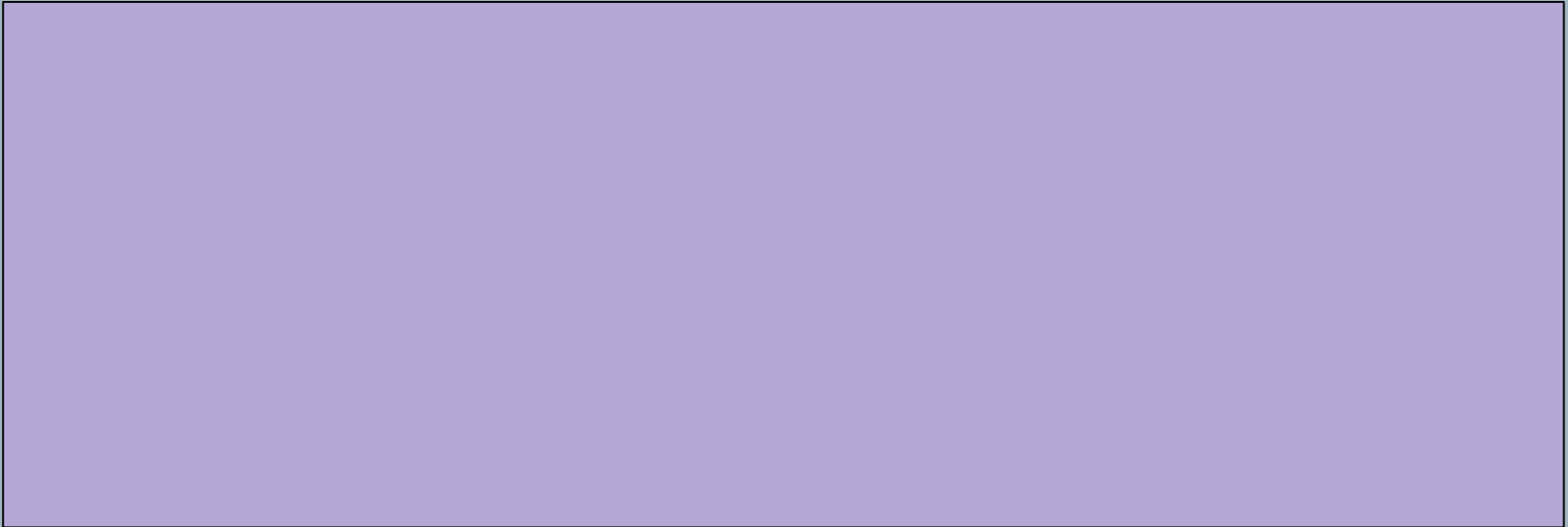
What does that look like?





What are challenges?

- Share an example of a challenge
- How can we define challenges?
- Can we overcome or conquer challenges? How?



Think about all of the restrictions currently in place. How we will complete the following tasks with those “challenges” occurring?



Making Friends

Socializing

Celebrating

Playing Sports

Dance Class

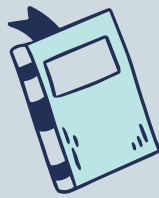
Cheerleading

Other after-school activities





B



3



2

What can your teachers do to help you deal with/ overcome these challenges?



A



2×2

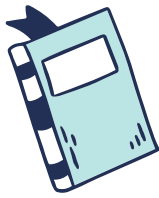


1





B



3



2

Click on link for printable answer sheet



Questionnaire



A



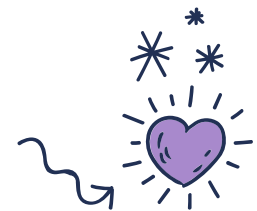
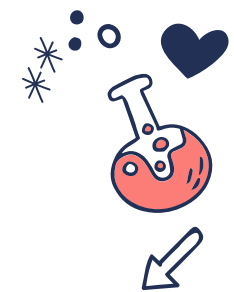
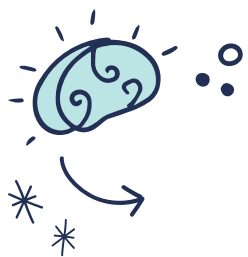
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1



Responses from kids just like you...



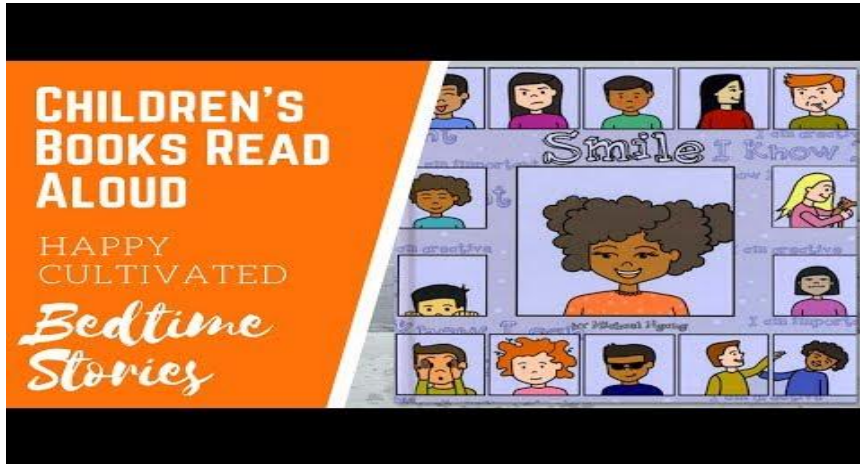


It All Starts With A SMILE

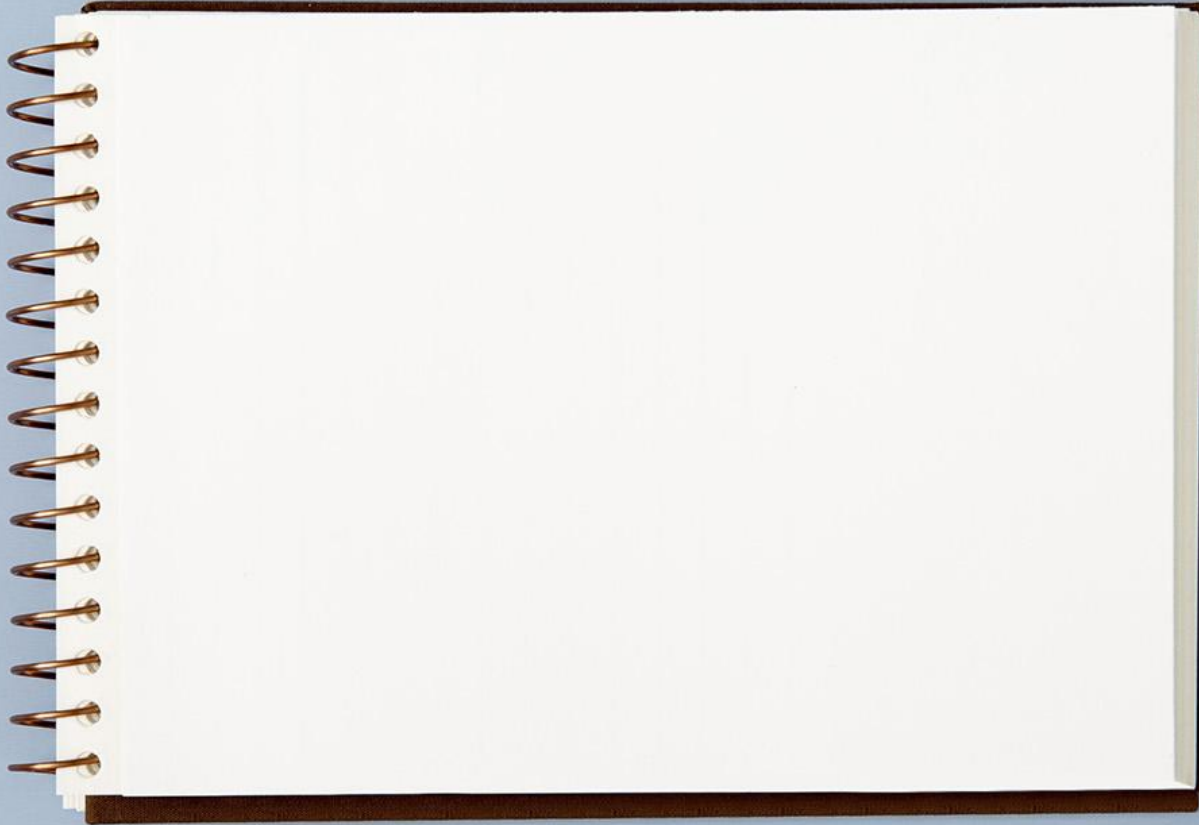
With the stress of the last few months, sometimes you need to write about things that make you smile...

Let's start with a cool Read Aloud

Smile-Positivity for Kids



Share how your smile can make a person's day!



Let's now write 100 things that make you happy!



the smell of bacon cooking
 cross stitching
 t-shirts and blue jeans
 whole series of TV shows to watch on demand
 working on a project as a family
 werm chocolate chip cookies
 Pinterest
 watching a sunrise or sunset
 a glass of wine with dinner
 freshly baked bread straight from the oven
 watching a Chicago Bears game
 a tell piece of water
 new clothes
 a handwritten letter
 Kehn Academy
 getting to create for so many amazing designers
 TV time with the family
 browsing the internet
 a hot cup of herbal tea
 chocolate
 silver jewelry
 homeschooling
 washi tape
 time spent with good friends
 hiking
 The Fresh 20
 board game days
 furniture made from real wood
 art journaling
 coffee
 handmade gifts
 protect life
 crisp fall days
 singing when no one is listening
 my label maker
 my family (always)
 hugs from my family
 our McLean Mill artwork
 digital scrapbooking
 cast iron pans
 Rhapsody
 The Food Network
 John Hughes movies
 a theatre production
 a coat curled up in my lap
 having photos printed
 living close to family
 Feely
 a long weekend
 hardwood floors
 clean sheets
 the first signs of spring
 the smell of cinnamon
 a good beer
 when Devin strills
 really movie night
 a good book
 40% off coupons
 planners
 biscuits and gravy
 beans and cornbread
 Public Libraries
 Lizzy's original projects
 my blue slides
 a clean kitchen
 Christmas carols
 office supplies
 ice cream
 the smell of freshly cut grass
 Studio c
 The Lillypad community
 Table Top
 roller coasters
 making lists
 Amazon Prime
 The Dipl Show
 fresh fruit
 smart phones
 our reading room
 WXPB 885 Essential Songs
 The drawing of Lizzy as a fairy
 flowers in my yard
 watching an Arkansas State football game
 road trips
 cheese cake
 a warm towel after my shower
 Sunday newspaper ads
 tomatoes from the farmer's market
 a pretty new notebook
 learning something new
 having Vonage to call friends and family in Canada
 long chats with Devin
 pumpkin pie for breakfast Thanksgiving morning
 cooking in the slow cooker
 learning a new knitting stitch
 XXXX
 Just Cross Stitch Christmas Ornaments editions

100 THINGS THAT MAKE ME HAPPY

long car rides
 ice cream
 seeing a dog
 friends
 sunrises
 sunsets
 big sweatshirts
 pizza
 cold nights w/cozy blankets
 scary movies
 making someone laugh
 hammocks
 coconut donuts
 a good playlist
 Saturday nights
 napping
 the sound of waves
 Justin Bieber
 country concerts
 driving for no reason
 buffalo chicken
 long weekends
 college
 rainy days
 family
 bro
 pancakes
 summer
 concerts
 Ray-Bans
 money
 slippers
 flowers
 baking
 sleep
 greys
 smiling
 facetime
 cookies
 showering
 lulu lemon
 scrunchies
 Birkenstocks
 Martha's vineyard
 the sun
 looking at old pics
 leaving work
 adventures
 blowing out birthday candles
 getting dressed up
 a good workout
 long runs
 learning new things
 meeting new people
 handing in an assignment
 clean sheets
 fuzzy blankets
 new clothes
 one tree hill
 hugs from your mom
 good grades
 Disney
 getting a hair cut
 when people miss you

THINGS THAT MAKE ME HAPPY

Nicholas Sparks
 fried ravioli
 vacations
 laughing
 painting
 Cape Cod
 hugs
 leggings
 drawing
 food
 Netflix
 chalk
 Spotify
 Puppies
 sisters
 my dog
 butterflies
 beach nights
 adventures



Upload yours as a background on this slide.

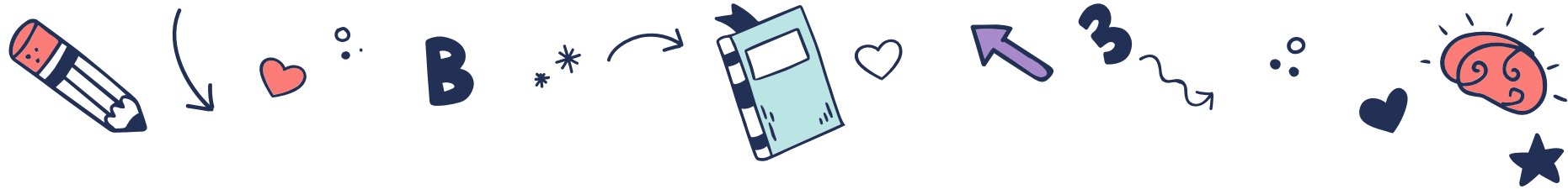
- my hubby's hugs
- sunsets
- talking with my mom
- babies
- making my lil sis laugh
- diy's
- seeing mountains
- flowers
- comedy movies
- my son's laugh
- cleaning
- thritting
- mgms
- peanuts
- bullet journals
- buying gifts for others
- music
- praying
- chocolate
- donuts
- mexican foods
- planners
- my mom's food
- seeing my family happy
- editing pictures
- vintage cameras
- stripes
- my son's inventions
- my hubby's laugh
- converse
- painting furniture
- road trips
- exploring
- playing board games with friends
- when someone else cook me dinner
- talking to my brother

100

things

that make me

happy



2

What brings you joy?



A



2x2

1



Here are a few things that have brought me joy in the last few months.



My dog Frankie



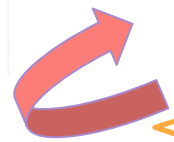
This story

After being abandoned at birth, then abandoned again at 11 by foster parents—boy adopted by “forever dad” and the pair are thriving and having fun too

Good News! MOVEMENT



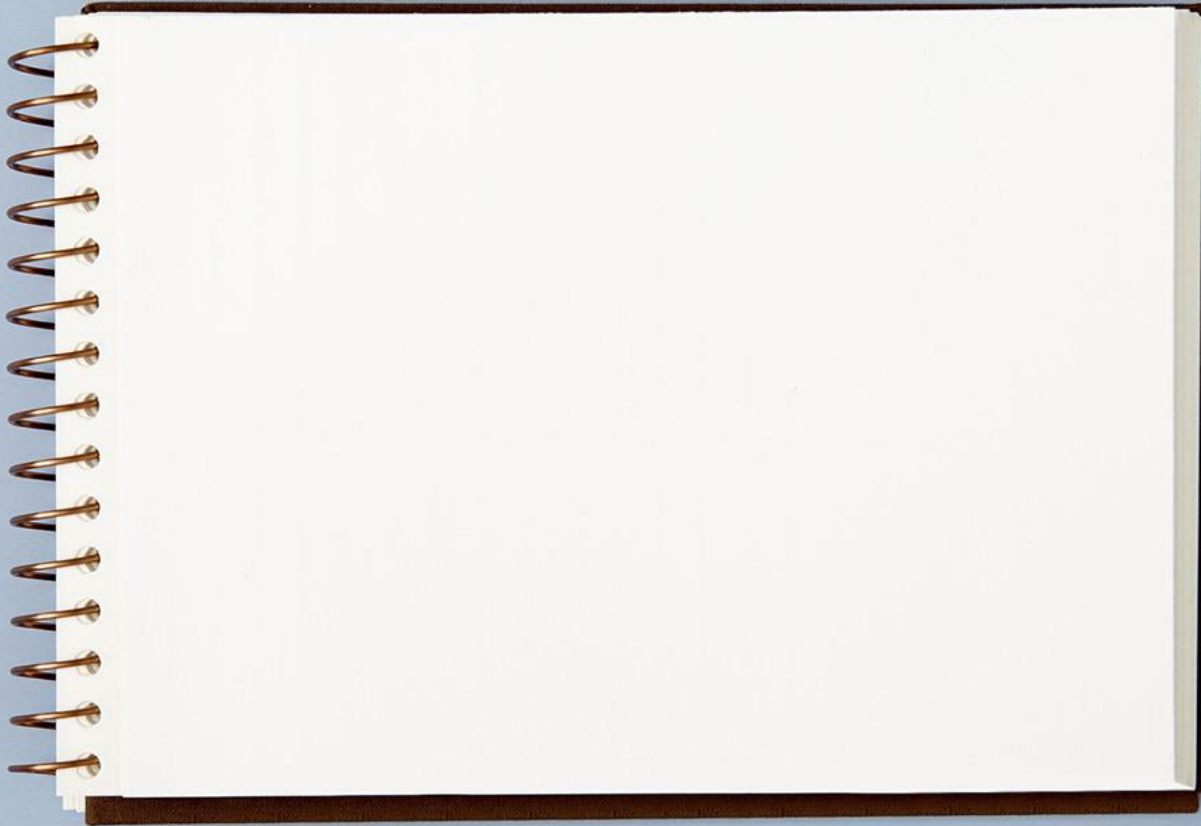
This child



Click on the photo for the video.



Tell me about something or someone who has brought you **JOY** recently.



The Skin I'm In

This section is focusing on YOU as a person. How do you feel in the skin you are in?

We welcome you to express to us who you are within.

We look forward to getting to know YOU!!!!



Name 4 things that come to mind when reading the following statement:
"The Skin I'm In"...



1st Thought

Type here



2nd Thought

Type here

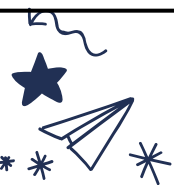
3rd Thought

Type here



4th Thought

Type here





Watch this video and write your reactions below.



Does the way I wear my hair make me a better person?

(Whoa, whoa, whoa)

Does the way I wear my hair make me a better friend? Oh

(Whoa, whoa, whoa)

Does the way I wear my hair determine my integrity?

(Whoa, whoa, whoa)

I am expressing my creativity

(Whoa, whoa, whoa)

Breast cancer and chemotherapy

Took away her crownin' glory

She promised God if she was to survive

She would enjoy every day of her life, oh

On national television

Her diamond eyes are sparkling

Bald-headed like a full moon shining

Singing out to the whole wide world like, hey

Hey (hey)

I am not my hair

I am not this skin

I am not your expectations, no (hey)

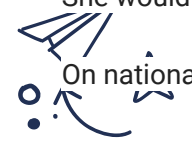
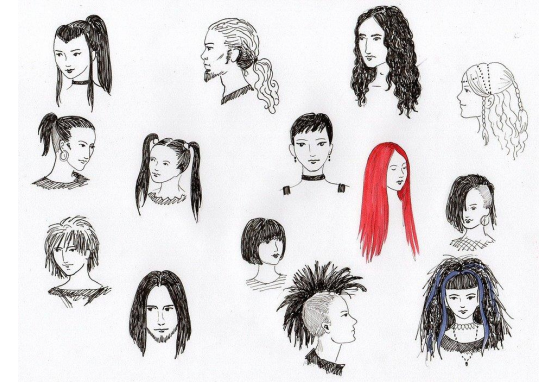
I am not my hair

I am not this skin

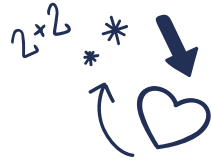
I am the soul that lives within



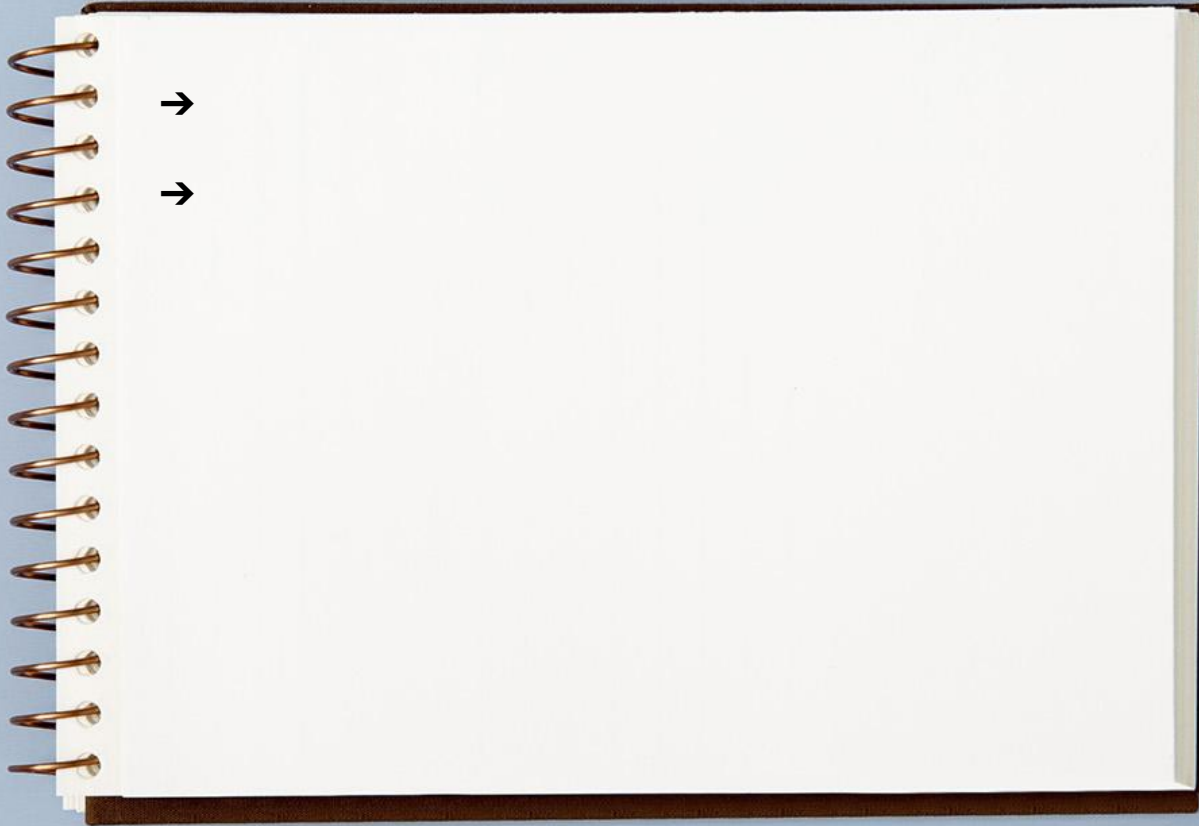
Share Time:
Any of these lyrics stand out to you?
Explain why?



"The Skin I'm In"



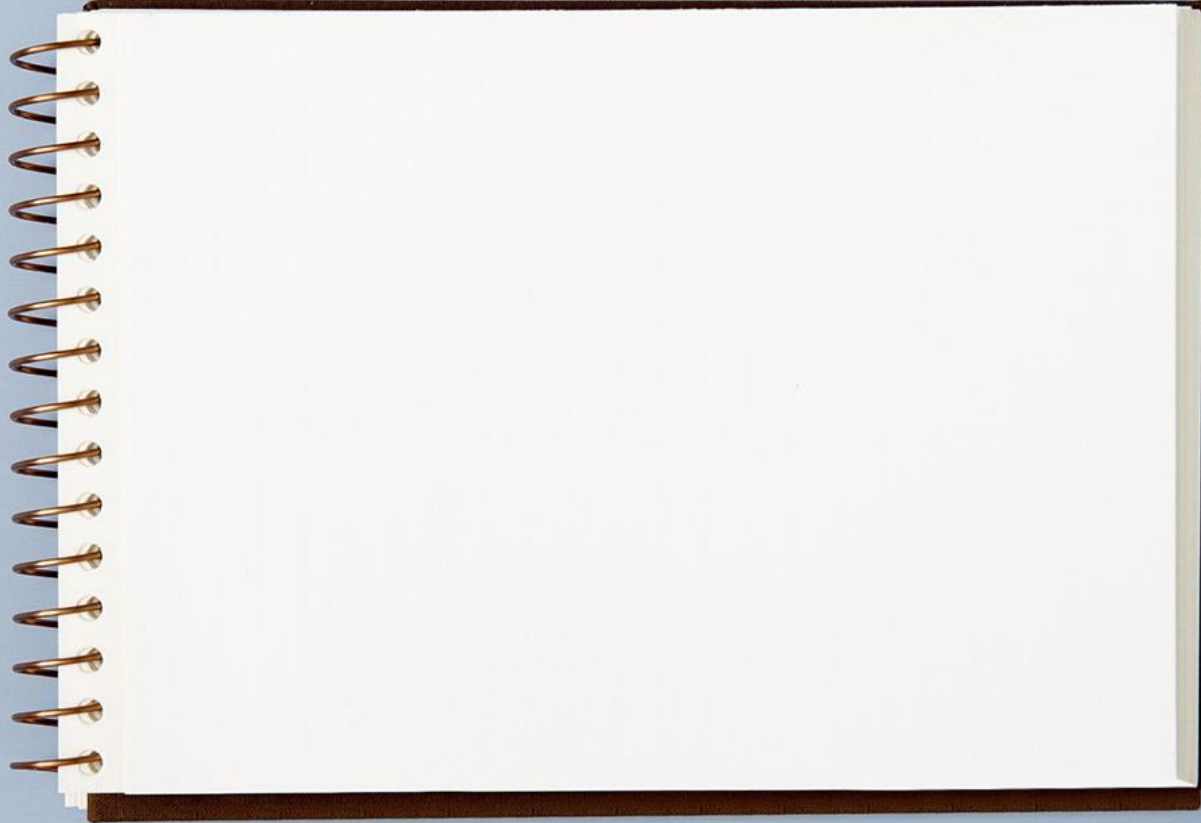
Pre-Write/Build background: Think of you being in the skin you are in.



List what you wish you write about in regards to being in skin you are in!



Now it's time to write your story! You can always go with the title provided OR create your own. I would like to see a story/poem describing YOU and how you feel in your skin!!! We look forward to meeting you and embracing YOU.



Where do we go from here?



“It is my hope that we are on our way to greater change.”
~Congressman John Lewis

Jamboard!

Need a creative way to share student writing that you can link to your Google Classroom slides? Try Jamboard. Here's how.



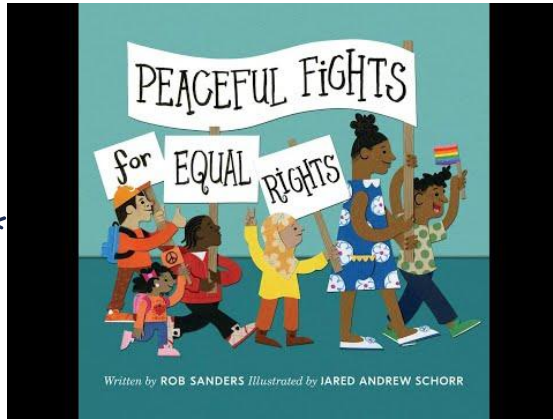


Peaceful Fights for Equal Rights by: Rob Sanders

This picture book was specifically designed for elementary students to help tackle complex social issues.



March !



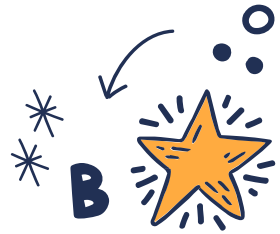
Vote!

Speak Out!

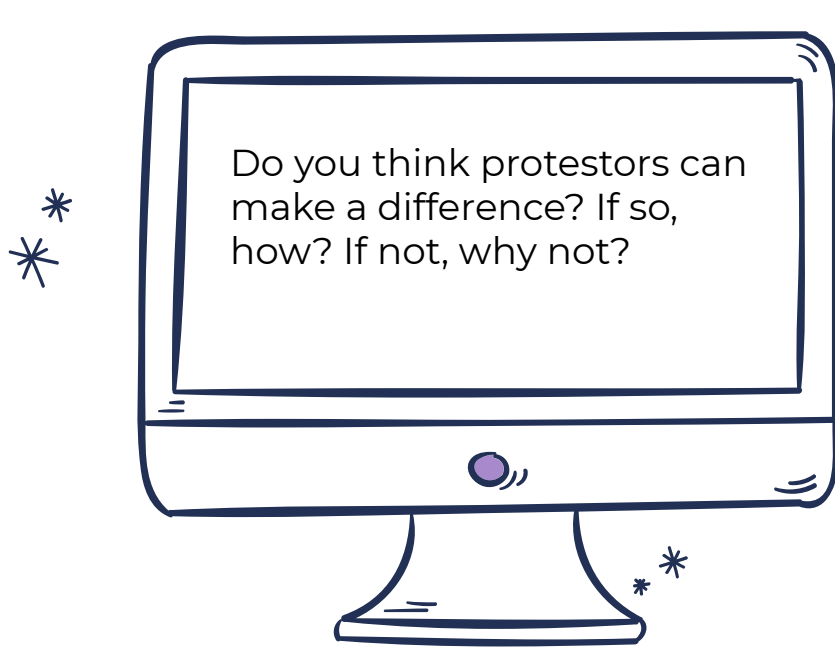
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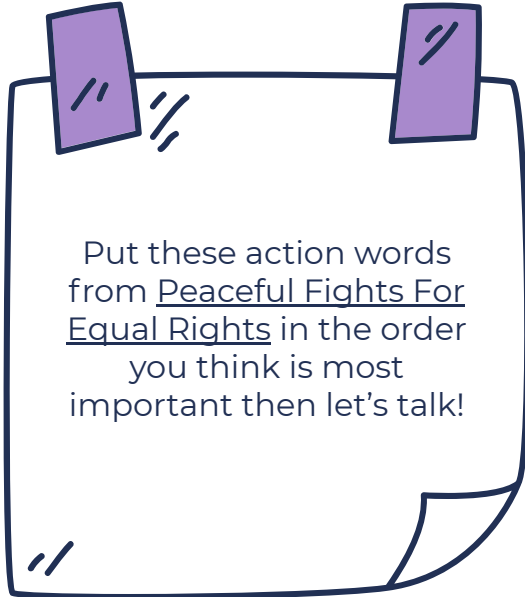
B



Everyone matters no matter how small.



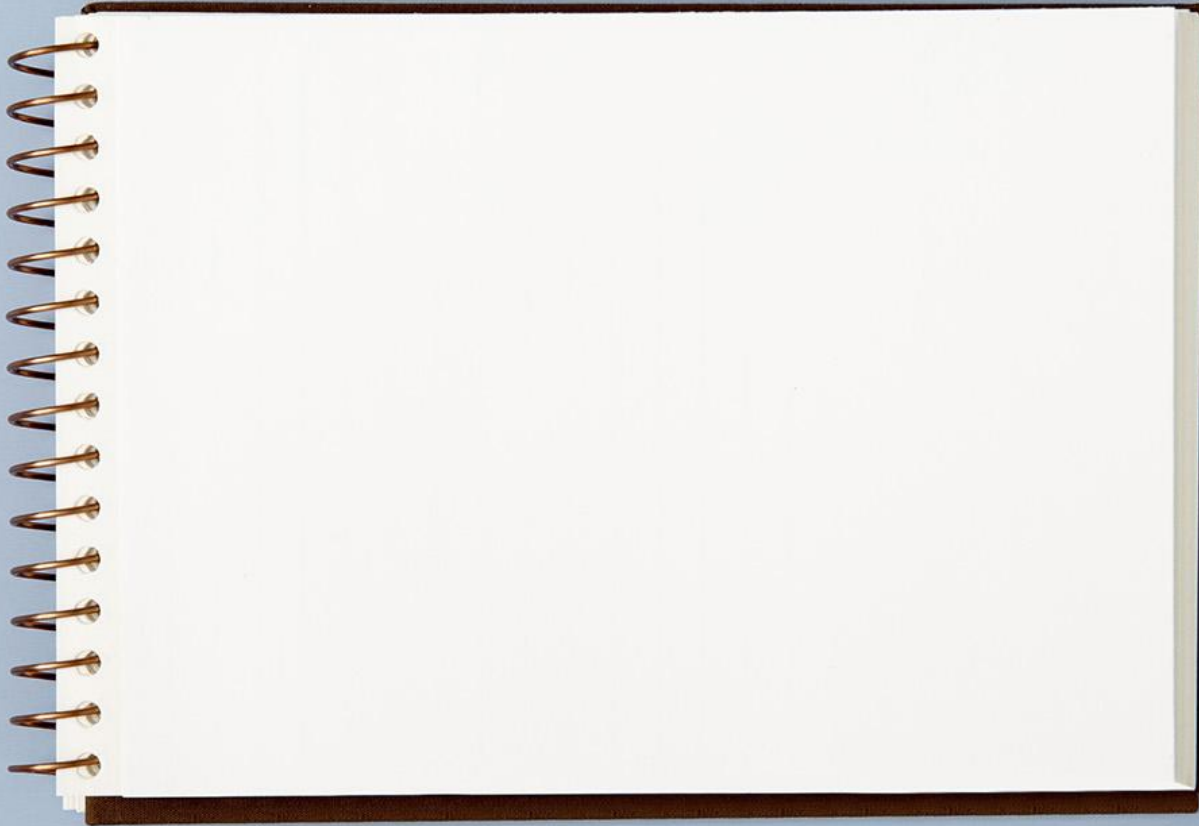
Words that mean action



Look Back to Move Forward

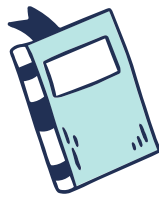


How do you feel now knowing that we got through this before?





B



3



2

Who are you...now?



A



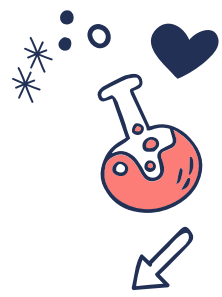
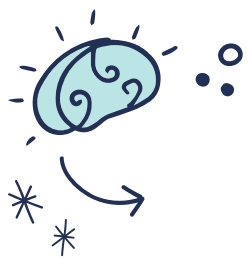
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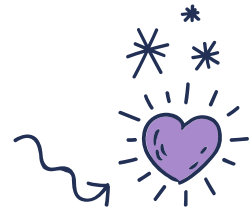
1



What do YOU see in the mirror?



FableVision and Marc Colagiovanni present
The Reflection IN ME





Who are YOU...?

- At home?
- With friends?
- In school?
- When you are scared?
- After school?
- In your neighborhood?
- When you dream?
- When you are happy?
- When life gets you down?
- When life seems unfair?

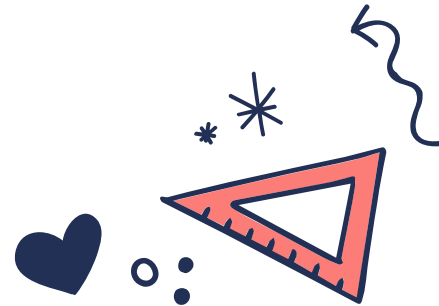




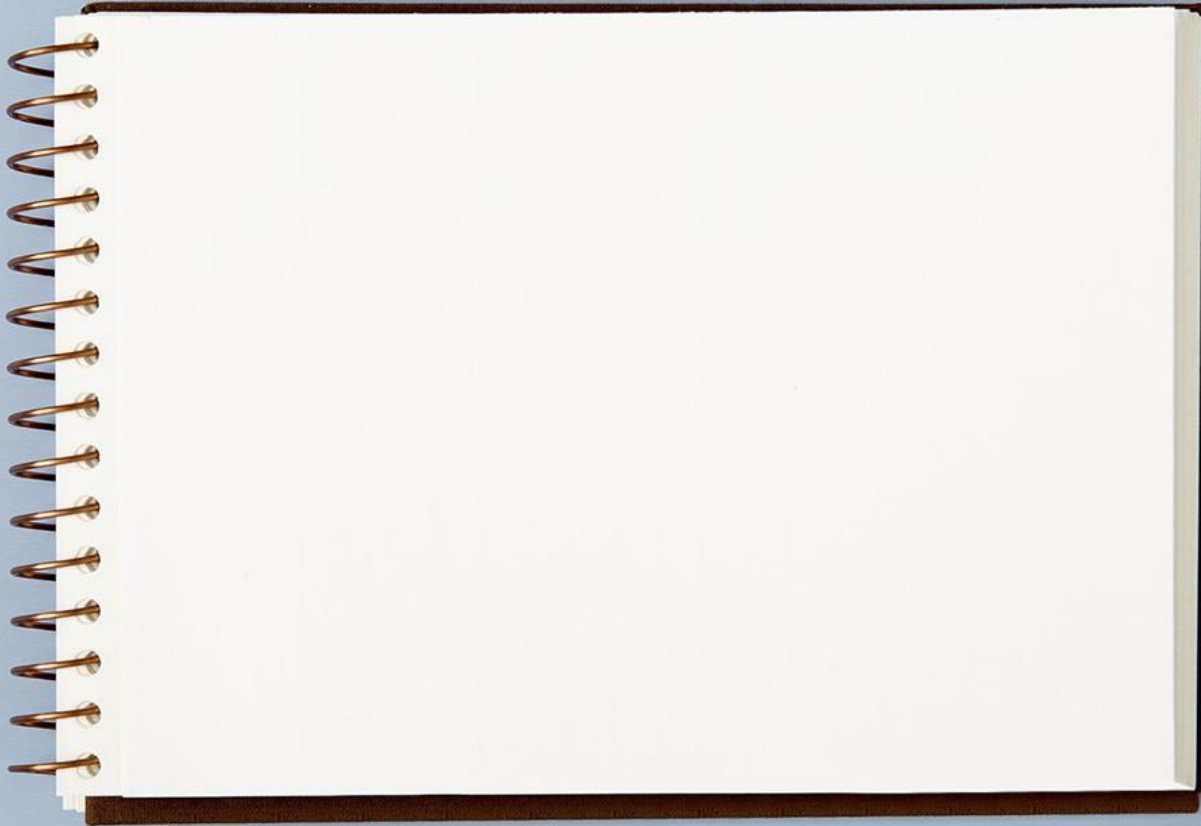
Self-Reflection

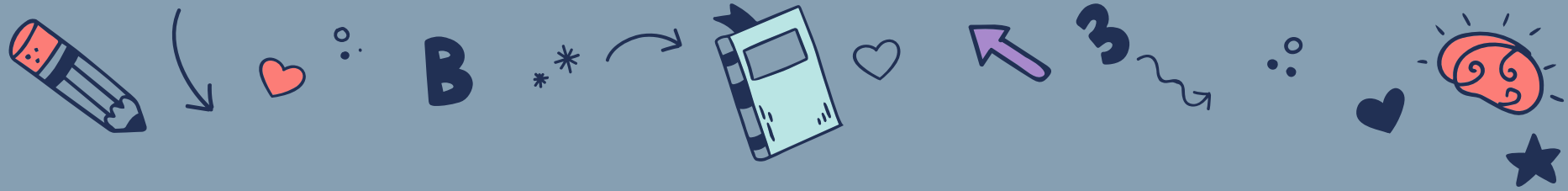
How have you changed since the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic and the rise of the Black Lives Matter movement?

Who are you...NOW?



Who are you now?





2 Now that this unit is done, it's time to create a portrait of what you see when you think of "resetting." What is your vision for what you hope the world will look like? Or what is the message you envision on a sign you'd like to show the world?



A



2×2

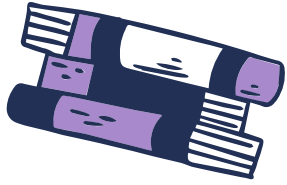
1





Put your MASTERPIECE inside the frame. It may be a drawing/painting/illustration you've done. Or it may be a sign/protest sign you designed. This is your time to RESET.





Any questions? Ask any of us.



Kelly Ann Coughlin

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E.M. Stanton/4th grade

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-Dr. Trent McLaurin

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James Lowell/ 4th Grade

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