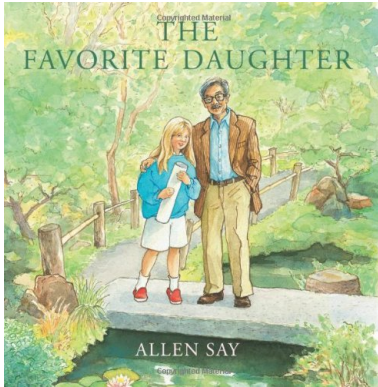


Elementary Book Lesson for Caregivers



Book Title

The Favorite Daughter by Allen Say

Recommended Ages

7 - 12 years old

Book Summary to Share With Children

Yuriko has always loved art, until now. Her new art teacher calls her "Eureka" by mistake and has given the class an art project that Yuriko thinks is boring. Yuriko tells her father she wants a different name and that she doesn't like school anymore. Listen to see how Yuriko's father helps her come to appreciate her name again and encourage her creativity to make her art project unique.

Reflection Questions for the Caregiver

- What are your experiences with appeasing and changing who you are to fit in?
- What is your experience with navigating different cultures or being a part of a bi/multiracial family? What messages did you receive as a child about bi/multiracial or multicultural couples and families?
- How can you help your child embrace belonging to several different "groups" based on their racial, ethnic, cultural, and linguistic identities?

Reader's Note

Children from a non-dominant culture or background can feel self-conscious in school. This story shares a girl's journey as she struggles with changing one aspect key to her personal identity in order to "fit in."

When children feel unsafe, they often adjust or modify who they are so that they will not stand out. They appease by trying to become what they think is the norm. Feeling pride in one's identities strengthens a child's sense of self and well being. Creating an atmosphere where children feel safe being authentic, and fostering respectful curiosity can be accomplished by introducing and celebrating differences beyond heroes and holidays.

Connection to Social-Emotional Learning and Anti-Bias Education

SEL

√ Self-Awareness
 √ Self-Management
 √ Social Awareness
 Relationship Skills
 Responsible Decision-Making

ABE

√ Empathy and Understanding
 √ Healthy Complex Identities
 √ Respect Across Differences
 √ Notice, Name, and Reject Bias
 Responsiveness and Action

Discussion Questions

1. Based on the story and the illustrations, what do you think the following words and phrases mean?
 - a. Kimono
 - b. Manju
 - c. Sumi-e
 - d. Arigato gozaimasu
2. What happened at school when Yuriko brought in a picture of herself in a kimono?
3. Why do other kids laugh and tell her that “Japanese dolls have black hair”? Why is this generalization (or stereotype) about Japanese people hurtful to Yuriko?
4. Why did Yuriko want to change her name? How did other people react to the name change?
5. How does Yuriko feel about art class and the art assignment? Why?
6. What was special about going to the Japanese restaurant and Japanese garden?
7. How does Yuriko use her imagination and creativity to solve a problem?
8. How does Yuriko come to like her name and Japanese identity throughout the story?
9. What can you do when you hear someone mispronounce or make fun of someone’s name?

Journal Questions/Activities

- What kinds of stories do you like hearing about yourself as a younger child? What do they reveal about your identity?
- What do you know about your name? Do you know what it means and why it was chosen for you? Write about your name and its significance.
- Name Collage - Have your child write their names in big bubble letters. (You can do this for them as well.) Then have them cut out magazine pictures of images and words that represent them - their favorite things, personality traits, hobbies, skills, talents, etc. They can glue these images inside the bubble letters of their name to create a unique name collage.