

# WHO AM I?

## INVESTIGATING IDENTITY IN OUR CLASSROOMS

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# OBJECTIVES / AGENDA

- **Engage** in an identity related activity
- **Reflect** upon why creating a healthy space for boys' identity development matters to us as educators
- **Examine** identity work happening in current lower school (K,2) classrooms and how it connects to supporting boys' social emotional well-being
- **Share** resources (books, activities, articles) for early elementary age students (kindergarten-3rd grade)

# NORMS

Share the air.

Speak from the “I” perspective. (I think... vs We think...)

Assume positive intentions.

Be OK with silence.

It's OK to pass.

Adapted from The National SEED Projects SF Chapter

<https://nationalseedproject.org/about-us>

# IDENTITY

Activated situationally, the characteristics that define one as a unique individual and as a member of different groups.

Who I see myself as

How I'm unique

How I'm part of different groups

Who you see me as

# IDENTITY CHARACTERISTICS

- Gender
- Ethnicity
- Race
- Religion
- Socioeconomic status
- Language
- Marital/relationship status
- Parent or childless
- Family size and composition
- Sexual orientation
- Education
- Career

# ACTIVITY: WHO ARE YOU?

# REFLECTIONS

What did you share? What did you choose not to share?

What felt uncomfortable sharing?

Of what you shared, what is visible to others? Invisible?

# 3YS CHALK TALK

1

Why might supporting boys' identity development matter to me?

2

Why might it matter to the people around me? (students, faculty, parents)

3

Why might it matter to the world?



# WHAT WE'RE DOING AT TOWN SCHOOL FOR BOYS



# BUILDING THE FOUNDATION (SEL)

- Learning how to identify and regulate emotions
- Providing space for self-reflection
- Teaching how to read social cues

# ACTIVITIES

JUST LIKE ME!

A Warm Wind Blows

Feelings Charades

Emotional Thermometer

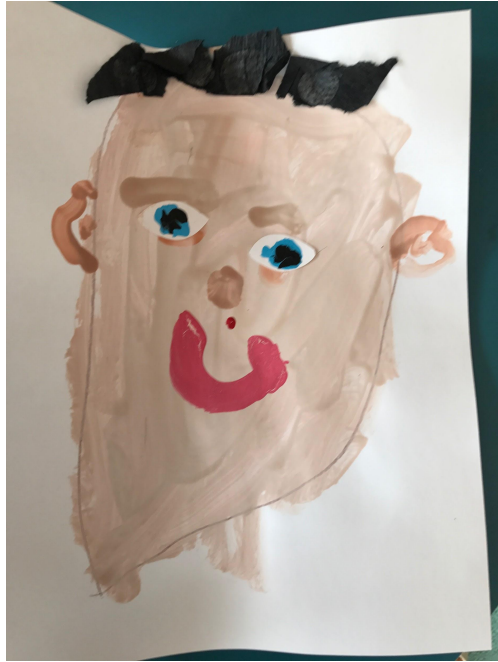
# HOW DO I SEE MYSELF?

“I see myself in the mirror.”

“By looking at myself with my eyes.”



“Two eyes and then a head. Ears.  
A mouth. Nose and my hair. And of  
course my eyebrows and  
eyelashes.”



“My teeth are never yellow since I brush them every night. I need a little red. You know how I got this [a mark on his face]? I hurt myself a few years ago...I like being funny.”

# HOW AM I UNIQUE?



One thing that makes me unique is my  
FAVORITE COLOR IS  
PINK.



One thing that makes me unique is I AM  
LET HAN DIED

# FLAG OF ME (2ND GRADE)





# PBL FAMILY PROJECT

# EXPANDING DEFINITIONS OF MASCULINITY

- Addressing stereotypes during planned activities as well as through teachable moments
- Allowing opportunity for sharing feelings and talking about emotions
- Providing access to books that have characters who don't conform to gender norms

# RESOURCES

## IDENTITY DEVELOPMENT RESOURCES

### **Books**

#### **Identity**

Mixed Me -- Taye Diggs and Shane W. Evans  
The Colors of Us -- Karen Katz  
The Skin You Live In -- Michael Tyler  
Skin Again - Chris Raschka  
Whoever You Are -- Mem Fox  
Be Who You Are -- Todd Parr  
Marvelous Me -- Lisa Bullard  
Why Am I Me? -- Page Britt, Sean Qualls, and Selina Aiko  
No One Else Like You -- Siska Goeminne and Meryl Eyckerman

#### **Gender Identity/Expression**

Beautiful -- Stacy McAnulty  
Tough Boris -- Mem Fox  
The Only Boy in Ballet Class -- Denise Gruska  
My Princess Boy -- Cheryl Kilodavis  
Annie's Plaid Shirt -- Stacey B. Davids  
Morris Mckiewhike and the Tangerine Dress -- Christine Baldacchino

#### **Friendship and Diversity**

The Sandwich Swap -- Queen Rania of Jordan Al Abdullah and Kelly DiPucchio  
We're All Wonders -- R.J. Palacio  
Oliver -- Birgitta Sif  
Tibby Tried It -- Sharon and Ernie Uselman  
The Invisible Boy-- Trudy Ludwig  
Same, Same But Different -- Jenny Sue Kostecki-Shaw  
It's Okay To Be Different -- Todd Parr

#### **Family/Family Structure**

The Family Book -- Todd Parr  
Who's in My Family -- Robie H. Harris  
One Family -- George Shannon

#### **Names**

Chrysanthemum -- Kevin Henkes  
Thunder Boy Jr. -- Sherman Alexie  
The Name Jar -- Yangsook Choi

#### **Feelings/Emotions**

Everyone -- Christopher Silas Neal  
In My Heart: A Book of Feelings -- Jo Witek  
Today I Feel: An Alphabet of Feelings -- Madalena Moniz

#### **Resilience**

The Most Magnificent Thing -- Ashley Spires  
Jabari Jumps -- Gaia Cornwall  
The Thing Lou Couldn't Do -- Ashley Spires  
Everyone Can Learn to Ride a Bicycle -- Chris Raschka

# CONNECT, EXTEND, CHALLENGE

How are the ideas and information presented **connected** to what you already knew?

What new ideas did you get that **extended** or pushed your thinking in new directions?

What is still **challenging** or confusing to get your mind around? What wonderings do you still have?

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## Connect-Extend-Challenge

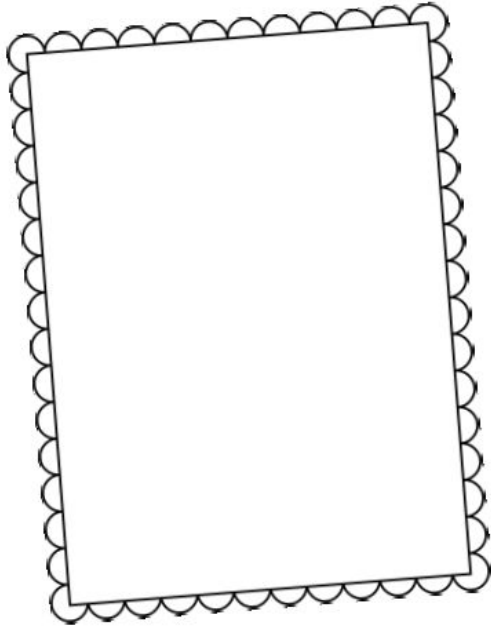
Connect	Extend	Challenge

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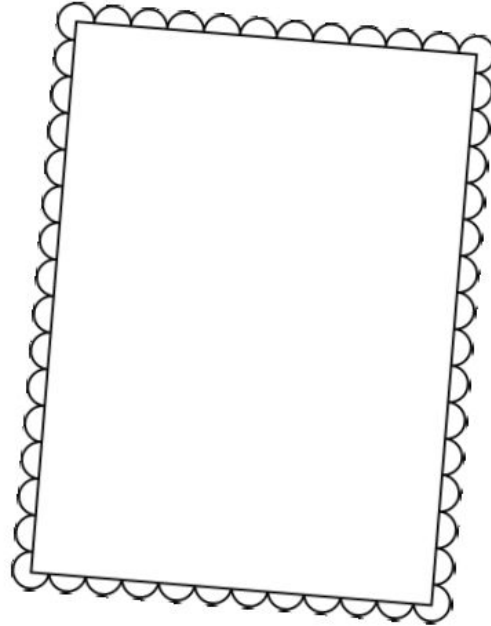
# I USED TO THINK... NOW I THINK...

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

I Used to Think...



Now I Think...



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