IT FEELS GOOD TO BE YOURSELF
A BOOK ABOUT GENDER IDENTITY

WRITTEN BY THERESA THORN
ILLUSTRATED BY NOAH GRIGNI

Interactive Read Aloud with CLASS® Concepts
Welcome to Teachstone's Interactive Reading Guide with CLASS® Concepts

How to use the guide:
This guide is meant to help you enhance the experience of reading with children. The ideas in the guide will help you make the most of story time, supporting children’s learning and engaging with them in a meaningful way.

When planning for story time, begin by reading the book. Then, read this guide. Choose the ideas you think will be most helpful based on what you know about the children you are reading to. It is not recommended that you use all of the ideas in the guide at once, as this may disrupt the flow of the story.

What is CLASS®?:
CLASS stands for the Classroom Assessment Scoring System. Developed in 2008 at the University of Virginia, it is a research-driven tool used to improve how teachers interact with children every day to cultivate supportive, structured, and engaging classroom experiences.

The CLASS framework is divided into three domains: Emotional Support, Classroom Organization, and Instructional Support. Each domain is subdivided into several dimensions. This guide offers suggestions on using strategies from each of the CLASS dimensions listed below.

**Emotional Support:**
Positive Climate (PC)
Teacher Sensitivity (TS)
Regard for Student Perspectives (RSP)

**Classroom Organization:**
Behavior Management (BM)
Productivity (P)
Instructional Learning Formats (ILF)

**Instructional Support:**
Concept Development (CD)
Quality of Feedback (QF)
Language Modeling (LM)
COVER:
The title of this book is “It Feels Good to be Yourself, A Book about Gender Identity”, written by Theresa Thorn and illustrated by Noah Grigni. When you look at this cover page, how do you think the people in it are feeling? What makes you say that they feel that way? (CD, LM, QF)

Let’s find out more about why they are feeling this way. First, I wonder, how do you feel about yourself?. That covers the first part of the title “it feels good to be yourself”, the second part of the title reads “a book about gender identity” What does gender identity mean? What do you think that the illustrator wanted to let us know when he drew those pictures on the cover? Let’s find out, shall we? (LM, CD, TS, RSP)

PICTURE WALK:
Please share with us what you think is happening on each page as I show it, look at the illustrations, think about the feelings of the characters in the story and let’s predict what the story is about before we read the words.

Now, let us go back to the beginning of the book and read it, we can evaluate our predictions. Please feel free to ask any questions that come to your thinking mind. (RSP, CD, LM)

GENDER IDENTITY:
Wow, how interesting to learn about gender identity, ha? What did we learn about gender identity? How could you learn about the gender identity of yourself and your friends and family? In which many various ways can we make sure that we love and respect ourselves and our friends or family members? What do you think it is like not to feel like a boy or a girl? What do you think is it like to feel like both, a boy and a girl? Why is it important to let people know how we feel? Who is a safe person in your life that you talk to when you have any questions? (TS, RSP, CD, LM, QF)
THE END:
This is a very interesting story, we have learned so much about gender identity, and the importance of loving yourselves and others around you, because: "it feels good to be yourself".

VOCABULARY

Gender Identify: The way you feel about yourself related to gender.

Transgender: Your gender identify is different from your sex assigned at birth.

Cisgender: Your gender identify matches your sex assigned at birth.

Non-Binary: Describe many identities that fall between boy and girl.

Learn more about how CLASS® can help your program improve teacher-child interactions at www.teachstone.com or give us a call at 877-401-8007.