



HUMAN  
RIGHTS  
CAMPAIGN  
FOUNDATION

WELCOMING SCHOOLS  
Book of the Month



# A Family Is a Family Is a Family

By: Sara O'Leary

Illustrated by: Qin Leng

## Elementary Discussion Guide

Suggested Age Range: 3-8

### About the Story

When a teacher asks the students what makes their family special, one student feels nervous to share because their family is different from the others. As each student shares, the class learns that all families are different and all families are special. This warm, sweet story is brought to life with whimsical and quirky illustrations.

### About the Author

Sara O'Leary is a Canadian children's writer and novelist of books for both children and adults. She was born in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan and now lives in Nova Scotia. This is the second book in the Who We Are series.

### About the Illustrator

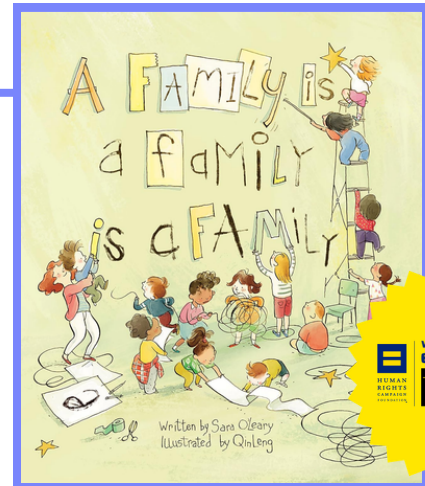
Qin Leng is an illustrator and author of children's books. Throughout her career, Qin has illustrated picture books, chapter books, magazines and book covers with publishers around the world. She lives in Toronto, with her husband and her son.

### Discussion Questions

- \* What are some ways the families in the book are special?
- \* What are some ways the families in the book are different?
- \* What is one thing that makes your family special?
- \* How did the student feel at the end of the story?
- \* What was your favorite picture in the story? What makes it your favorite?

### Activities

- \* Draw a picture of your family. Add details to show what makes your family special and unique. Welcoming Schools has a [lesson plan here](#) for K-2 students creating drawings that celebrate unique family structures.
- \* Make a poster or bulletin board of different types of families. The title could be All Families Are Special!
- \* On chart paper, create a list of sentences starting with **Some Families**...speak Spanish, like to cook, are big, live far away from each other, are messy etc.
- \* Make your own picture book of different types of families. Show how each family is different and special.
- \* On chart paper, make a list of things you could say if someone is teased because their family is different.



Reading is one of the most powerful ways to model inclusion and nurture empathy. Welcoming Schools created the Book of the Month series to foster compassionate dialogue and elevate joyful stories of authentic LGBTQ+ lives, building monthly engagement and momentum leading up to our National Day of Reading each February.