



HUMAN  
RIGHTS  
CAMPAIGN  
FOUNDATION

WELCOMING SCHOOLS  
Book of the Month



# I Can Be...Me!

By: Lesléa Newman

## Elementary Discussion Guide

Suggested Age Range: 4-7

### About the Story

Six friends and a dog explore all the ways they can be themselves. They dance and sing. They race and build. They catch and chase. They spin and twirl. There are no limits to what they can do. Told through rhyming verses and vibrant illustrations, this story celebrates what it means to be your magnificent self.

### About the Author

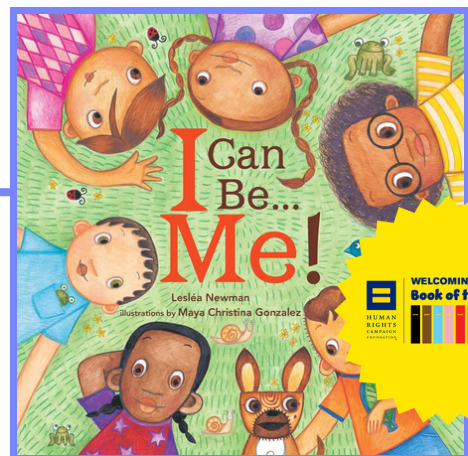
Lesléa (pronounced "Lez-LEE-uh") Newman (she/her) was born in Brooklyn, NY. She writes in many different forms: picture books, poems, short stories and novels. She has made a point throughout her career to write about underrepresented groups. Lesléa loves to read and hang out at home with her spouse and their cat.

### Discussion Questions

- ✳ What are some adventures the friends in this story like to do together? Do you like to do some of these things with your friends?
- ✳ What are some fun games in the story you would like to try with your friends?
- ✳ Have you ever heard someone get teased for liking to wear certain colors or for playing certain games? What could you say to the person that is teasing someone else?
- ✳ What do you like about the illustrations in this book? What is your favorite picture in the book?
- ✳ What are some rhyming pairs you heard in the book?

### Activities

- ✳ Create your own page to add to the book. Be sure to include rhyming words and vibrant illustrations.
- ✳ Make a chart of all the rhyming pairs you noticed in the book.
- ✳ Make a list of what you could say if you heard someone say, "That's only for boys!" or "That's only for girls!"
- ✳ Draw or paint a picture of you doing something that makes you magnificently you!
- ✳ Create a bulletin board titled "I Can Be...Me!" Include photographs or drawings of everyone being magnificently themselves!



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.