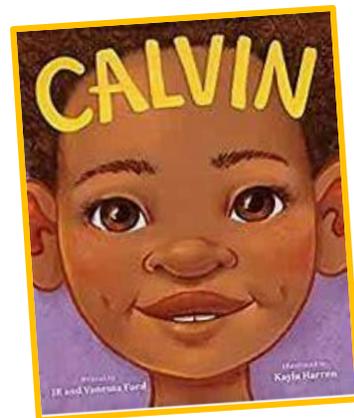
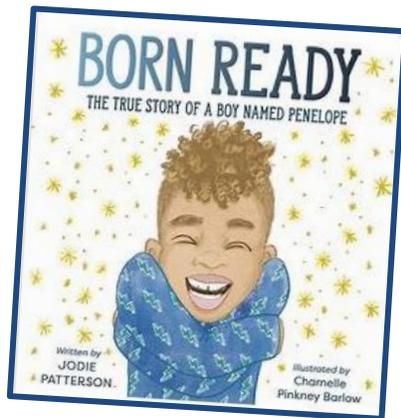
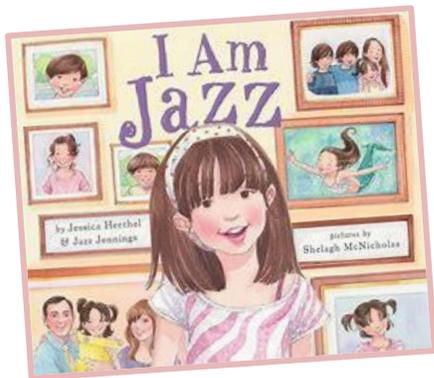


JAZZ & FRIENDS

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2022



Welcoming
Schools



HUMAN
RIGHTS
CAMPAIGN
FOUNDATION

nea NATIONAL
EDUCATION
ASSOCIATION

Great Public Schools for Every Student



American Association
of School Librarians
TRANSFORMING LEARNING

How to Use This Toolkit

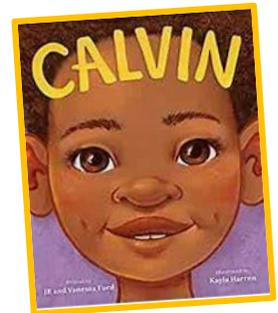
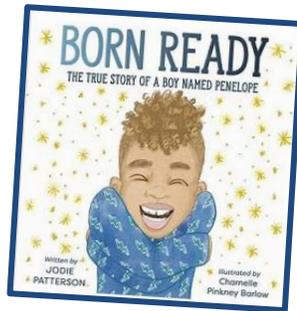
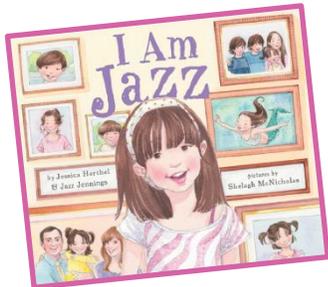
This toolkit is designed to be a resource for community members, educators and youth serving professionals interested in creating welcoming and affirming spaces for transgender and non-binary youth through the reading of inclusive children's literature, such as *I Am Jazz*, *Calvin*, *From the Stars in the Sky to the Fish in the Sea* and/or *Born Ready: The True Story of a Boy Named Penelope*.

Our hope is that these readings will inspire caring community members to join together to advocate for the rights of transgender and non-binary youth and ensure that every child has the support needed to thrive and be their whole self in their school and community. We have included many helpful resources in this handout to assist you in creating an affirming, respectful and joyful experience for all in attendance at your Jazz & Friends event.

“Our hope is that these readings will inspire caring community members to join together to advocate for the rights of transgender and non-binary youth...”

Which Books Will You Read?

This year we will be highlighting four books: *I Am Jazz*, *Calvin*, *From the Stars in the Sky to the Fish in the Sea* and *Born Ready: The True Story of a Boy Named Penelope*. You may want to read one, two, three or all four of these books.



How Will You Host a Reading?

Community Reading

In the spirit of the original [Mt. Horeb](#) reading, organize a reading from your home, library, bookstore or neighborhood center.

In hosting a reading, consider the following:

- + If virtual, what platform will you use?
- + How many people can you host with your virtual account?
- + Consider co-hosting with a local organization that can host more people on their virtual account.
- + Consider COVID protocols that may need to be put in place and communicated to participants.

Classroom or School-Wide Reading

Sharing stories of transgender and non-binary youth is an essential part of creating welcoming and inclusive classrooms and schools. By guiding discussions about gender with students, educators, families and other caring adults, you can help to prevent bias-based bullying, harassment and gender stereotyping.

In hosting a reading, consider the following:

- + Check out the 'Helpful Hints' section (pg.8).
- + Invite transgender or non-binary folks in your community to be a part of the reading.
- + Be proactive! Communicate with families about the reading via classroom or school newsletters.
- + Consider using the full lesson plan found here.
- + For older grades, consider sharing additional videos or stories of transgender and non-binary people.

Tips for Securing Virtual Readings

- + Have a co-host who can monitor chat and remove any disrespectful participants.
- + Don't use your personal meeting ID.
- + Have participants register for your event.
- + Use a password.
- + Use the waiting room feature.
- + Check your meeting settings. Turn off screen sharing, personal chat... Zoom has a great guide [here](#).

Will You Collaborate With a Community Partner?

- + Consider co-hosting with local LGBTQ+ organizations, libraries, places of worship and/or other affirming community organizations.
- + The reader or readers could be local LGBTQ+ leaders, school board members, LGBTQ+ allies, librarians, faith-based leaders, elected officials, students from local GSAs or family members who affirm their LGBTQ+ loved ones.
- + Partners can help you to publicize the event and may have the ability to provide financial support for copies of the books to mail to participants. Partners may also have a Zoom account that supports more participants than a personal account.

How Will You Discuss the Books?

Community Discussion Guides

We have developed community discussion guides to assist you in facilitating meaningful discussions for your event.

Each discussion guide includes the following sections:

- + About the Author
- + About the Book
- + Community Discussion Questions
- + Activities

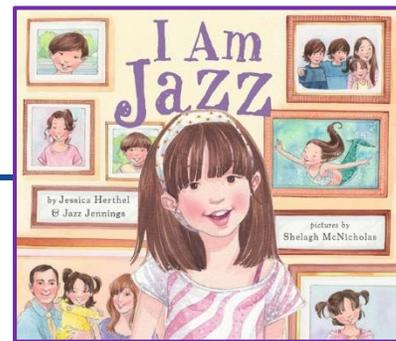


I AM JAZZ

COMMUNITY DISCUSSION GUIDE

Authors: Jessica Herthel (she/her) & Jazz Jennings (she/her)

Illustrator: Shelagh McNicholas (she/her)



About the Author

Jazz began her activism at age six when she appeared on 20/20 with Barbara Walters. She now stars in TLC's docu-series, "I am Jazz" and is one of America's most well-known transgender youth. Jazz is an HRC Youth Ambassador, a program amplifying the voices of LGBTQ+ youth leaders. She is the co-author of the children's book, I am Jazz, and released her memoir, Being Jazz in 2016.

About the Book

From the time she was two years old, Jazz knew that she was a girl, even though she had been assigned as a boy when she was born. She loved pink and dressing up as a mermaid and didn't feel like herself in boys' clothing. This confused her family, until they took her to a doctor who said that Jazz was transgender and that she was born that way. Jazz's story is based on her real-life experience and she tells it in a simple, clear way that will be appreciated by picture book readers, their parents, and teachers.



Questions

- + Jazz says that her favorite colors are pink, silver and green. What are your favorite colors?
- + What are some things you have in common with Jazz? What are some things that are different?
- + In the book, Jazz says that she is transgender. What does transgender mean to Jazz?
- + What are some things that Jazz does to show the world that she is a girl?
- + If you knew Jazz, what could you do to help her feel safe and welcomed?



Illustration from *I Am Jazz* by Jessica Herthel & Jazz Jennings with illustrations by Shelagh McNicholas.

Activities

- + List some of the things you do to show the world who you are inside. Include activities and things you like to wear.
- + Make a T-chart called Welcoming Schools: On one side, list some things that adults in your school could do to make a transgender student feel safe, welcomed and affirmed. On the other side, list some things students could do to make a transgender classmate feel safe, welcomed and affirmed.
- + Write a letter to Jazz telling her about the things you like and do.

Want a more in-depth learning opportunity?

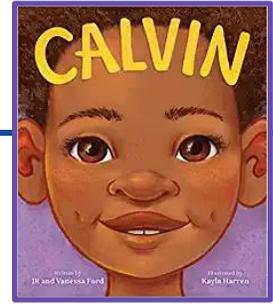
Welcoming Schools has gender lesson plans, including the [I Am Jazz Lesson Plan](#) available for download at WelcomingSchools.org.

CALVIN

COMMUNITY DISCUSSION GUIDE

Authors: JR Ford (he/him) & Vanessa Ford (she/her)

Illustrator: Kayla Harren (she/her)



About the Authors

JR and Vanessa Ford are nationally-known advocates for LGBTQ+ rights, specifically, rights for transgender youth. They were both founding members of the Human Rights Campaign's Parents for Transgender Equality Council. They live with their two children, one of whom is trans, in the Boston, MA area.

About the Book

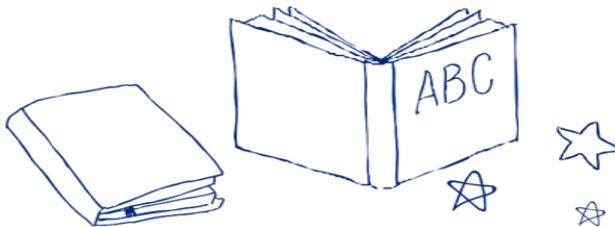
Calvin has always been a boy, even if the world sees him as a girl. He knows who he is in his heart and in his mind, but he hasn't yet told his family. Finally, he can wait no longer: "I'm not a girl," he tells his family. "I'm a boy—a boy in my heart and in my brain." As the first day of school approaches, he's nervous and the "what-ifs" gather up inside him. But as his friends and teachers rally around him and he tells them his name, all his "what-ifs" begin to melt away. Inspired by the authors' own transgender child.

Community Discussion Questions

- + In the book, Calvin's father says that Calvin is transgender. Can you describe what the word transgender means for Calvin in this story?
- + Why do you think Calvin was so happy to be called by his real name, the one he shared with his lion?
- + What pronouns did Calvin want to be called? What other changes did Calvin make to be himself (gender expression--hair, clothes)?
- + Whenever Calvin had to do something scary his dad always said, "take a breath and count down from 5". Are there things that you do or say to yourself when you are feeling scared about something?
- + Do you know or have you ever heard about someone who is transgender?

Activities

- + Draw a picture of you with your favorite stuffed animal. Share with others how you feel when you are snuggling your stuffed animal.
- + Play "Just Like Me!" with one person or a group of people. Have one person read the statements and if the statement applies to you, you can stand up/clap/snap, etc. to show that the statement applies to you. Watch to see what you have in common with others and what makes you unique. Get creative and allow others to share ideas!
 - Starting with some of the things that were important to Calvin in the story...
 - I like waterslides.
 - I like jumping rope.
 - I like popcorn.
 - I like reading comics.
 - I like wearing costumes.
 - I like putting on a fashion show.



Want a more in-depth learning opportunity?

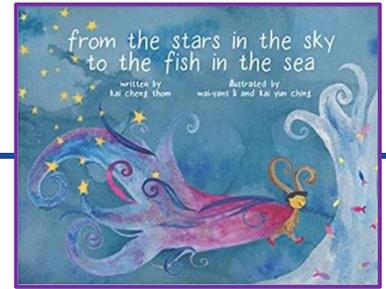
Welcoming Schools has gender lesson plans, including the [Calvin: A Time to Be Me! Lesson Plan](#) available for download at WelcomingSchools.org.

FROM THE STARS IN THE SKY TO THE FISH IN THE SEA

COMMUNITY DISCUSSION GUIDE

Authors: Kai Cheng Thom (she/her)

Illustrator: Wai-yant Li (they/them) & Kai Yun Ching (they/them)



About the Author

Kai Cheng Thom is a writer, performance artist, social worker, fierce trans femme and notorious liar who loves lipstick and superhero cartoons.

About the Book

In the magical time between night and day, when both the sun and the moon are in the sky, a child is born in a little blue house on a hill. And Miu Lan is not just any child, but one who can change into any shape they can imagine. The only problem is they can't decide what to be: A boy or a girl? A bird or a fish? A flower or a shooting star? In this captivating, beautifully imagined picture book about gender, identity, and the acceptance of the differences between us, Miu Lan faces many questions about who they are and who they may be. But one thing's for sure: no matter what this child becomes, their mother will love them just the same.

Community Discussion Questions

- + What do we learn about Miu Lin in the story? What do they like?
- + How did other kids treat Miu Lin? How did that make Miu Lin feel?
- + If you were in their class, what could you do to be an ally (be kind to) to Miu Lin?
- + What did Miu Lin's mom do to always remind them that they were loved? What makes you feel special and loved?
- + What is the author's message to us?

Activities

- + Tell a partner about what makes you feel special and loved.
- + In the story, Miu Lin's mom tells them, "whatever you dream of, I believe you can be". Draw a picture of something you dream to be.



Want a more in-depth learning opportunity?

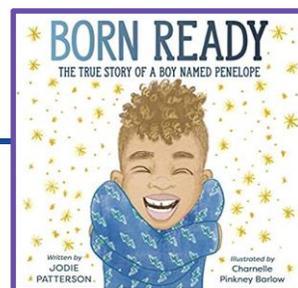
Welcoming Schools has gender lesson plans, including the [From the Stars in the Sky to the Fish in the Sea Lesson Plan](#) available for download at WelcomingSchools.org.

BORN READY: THE TRUE STORY OF A BOY NAMED PENELOPE

COMMUNITY DISCUSSION GUIDE

Authors: Jodie Patterson (she/her)

Illustrator: Charnelle Pinkney Barlow (she/her)



About the Author

Jodie Patterson, activist and Chair of the Human Rights Campaign Foundation Board, shares her transgender son's experience in this important picture book about identity and acceptance.

Jodie Patterson is a social activist and author, who's been lauded for her work globally. She holds the position of Chair of the Board of the Human Rights Campaign Foundation, as well as Advisor to the Ackerman Institute's Gender & Family Project, and to Mount Sinai Hospital's transgender health center. She was appointed by the United Nations as a Champion of Change and currently lives in Brooklyn, New York, where she raises her five children with love, education, and family solidarity.

About the Book

Penelope knows that he's a boy. (And a ninja.) The problem is getting everyone else to realize it. In this story, Patterson shares her son Penelope's frustrations and triumphs on his journey to share himself with the world. Penelope's experiences show children that it always makes you stronger when you are true to yourself and who you really are.

Community Discussion Questions

- + Everyone thinks that Penelope is a girl and treats him like a girl. How does Penelope respond to this?
- + When Penelope was born, the doctor or midwife said that he was a girl. Now that he is older, he can tell people who he knows himself to be, that he is a boy. What is the word that Penelope uses to describe himself in the book? (Transgender).
- + How does Penelope let people know that he is a boy? Does he change something about himself? Are there some things that he does not change?

Activities

- + Play "Switch It Up!" - Set up just enough seats/spots in a circle for everyone but one person. This person starts in the center of the circle and says, "Switch places if you ..." and then finishes the sentence. Everyone who fits the description must get up and change seats; in the general commotion, the person in the center tries to get a seat/spot also. Whoever is left standing there, gets to be in the center.
 - Examples: "Switch places if you..."
 - Like ninjas.
 - Like skateboarding.
 - Like wearing high-tops.
 - Like math.
 - Like science.
- + In the story, Penelope says he doesn't know everything, but he knows what he likes. "Skateboards and high-tops, baggy blue jeans, button-front shirts, math, science, and getting straight A's." Draw a picture of you and the things you like.

Want a more in-depth learning opportunity?

Welcoming Schools has gender lesson plans, including the [Born Ready Lesson Plan](#) available for download at WelcomingSchools.org.

How Will You Promote Your Event?

- + Publicize on Social Media.
 - Create an Event Page to encourage people to RSVP.
 - Add Jazz & Friends images to your posts to make them more engaging and fun.
 - Hashtag #JazzAndFriends to build awareness of your event.
- + Invite local leaders (e.g. elected officials, school board members, supportive community members, local leaders of LGBTQ+ organizations, etc.) and ask them to help promote your event.
- + Share information about your event on a listserv. Are you part of a listserv of parents or a listserv for your congregation, school or community?
- + Submit to your local community calendar. Most outlets allow you to do this via a website.
- + Send information a week or two prior to the event, few days before, the day before and the day of the event to remind people to attend.

Final Preparations for the Reading

- + Send a reminder about the event the day before and the day of the reading to encourage people to prioritize attending the reading.
- + Plan for the event's flow:
 - Develop a time and content outline.
 - Decide who will introduce the reader.
 - Decide who will lead a discussion based on the discussion guides for each book.



Helpful Tips

- + Think about having people customize their zoom profile to have their name and pronouns (if they use them).
- + Before the reader begins to read a book, make sure to introduce them and say what pronouns they use.
- + Remember that you cannot know how someone identifies based on how they look (their gender expression). Be mindful at your event to model how to respectfully ask people their name and pronouns.
- + Learn basic vocabulary before hosting your event.
 - Welcoming Schools has a helpful resource for defining [LGBTQ+ Words for Children](#).
- + Know that gender identity, who you love or are attracted to (sexual orientation) and assignment at birth (sex assigned at birth) are different. Welcoming Schools has a helpful lesson plan, [The Gender Snowperson](#), that highlights important terminology about the differences between sexual orientation and gender identity that you will want to understand before hosting.
- + If someone asks you a question and you're unsure of the answer, it is perfectly OK to say that you don't know.
- + Transgender and non-binary bodies are private!
 - Jazz Jennings has been very public about her gender-affirming surgeries on her television show, and that is a personal and intentional decision Jazz and her family made that works for them.
 - It is not appropriate for someone to ask questions about surgeries or physical bodies at a book reading for youth.
 - The book *I Am Jazz* is intended for young audiences, highlighting Jazz's elementary school experiences. If people ask about Jazz's gender-affirming surgery, say, "Transgender and non-binary bodies are private, and we are not going to be discussing that here".

Jazz & Friends 2022 Sample Social

Using social media tools like Facebook, Twitter and Instagram can boost attendance at your reading. Here are some sample posts you can use on your own social media accounts!

Twitter:

Support transgender and non-binary youth by joining me for @HRC Foundation's Welcoming Schools! #JazzAndFriends School and Community Readings on February 24 at [LOCATION]. [EVENT LINK]

Join me and @HRC's Welcoming Schools program on February 24 for the #JazzAndFriends School and Community Readings. Let's come together to show our support for trans and non-binary youth.

[EVENT LINK]     

 SAVE  THE  DATE:

On February 24, join me and @HRC Welcoming Schools to support trans and non-binary youth by reading in our community. #JazzAndFriends [EVENT LINK]

 Don't forget to join your community on February 24 and read inclusive books to show your support for trans- gender and non-binary youth with @HRC Foundation's Welcoming Schools! #JazzAndFriends [EVENT LINK]

Facebook:

Support transgender and non-binary youth by joining me for the Jazz & Friends National Day of School & Community Readings on February 24 at [LOCATION]. [EVENT LINK]

Join me and HRC's Welcoming Schools on February 24 for Jazz and Friends. Let's come together to show our support for trans and non-binary youth in our community. [EVENT LINK]

Don't forget to join me and show your support for transgender and non-binary youth on February 24! [EVENT LINK]

How to create a Facebook event:

Click "Events" in the left menu of your Facebook News Feed and click "Create Event".

- + Decide if you would like to make the event public or private.
- + Fill in the event name, details, location and time.
- + Consider adding a photo to make your event stand out.
- + You'll then be taken to the event page where you can invite guests by clicking on "Share", upload photos, share posts and edit event details.
- + As the big day approaches, don't forget to post in the event page to remind people to attend!

**Welcoming
Schools**



Instagram:

TIP: On Instagram, links are not clickable in your captions; the only clickable place is in your bio. If you want to promote your event on Instagram, we suggest you include your event link in your bio. To do so, click “edit profile” on your profile and drop in your website link.

Don't forget to join me and support transgender and non-binary youth on February 24! RSVP at the link in my bio.

.....
SAVE THE DATE: On February 24, join me and HRC's Welcoming Schools to support trans and non-binary youth by reading inclusive books in our community.

.....
Possible hashtags to add into your caption:

#LGBTQ+ #LGBT #Youth #Trans #Transgender
#TransYouth #JazzAndFriends #WelcomingSchools

Instagram Stories:

TIP: This is a fun and different way to promote your event! When on your newsfeed, swipe right to create a series of “stories” that will be viewable to your followers for 24 hours.

Upload a photo of a flyer, book or piece of promotional material. Then you can add text and include gifs, tag your location or get creative with things like music and countdown stickers.

SAVE THE DATE: On February 24, join me and HRC's Welcoming Schools program to support trans and non-binary youth by reading in our community.

.....
Across the country, people, schools and organizations will be hosting readings with HRC's Welcoming Schools program and I'm hosting one at [LOCATION].

.....
These are community readings to embrace inclusion and acceptance.

.....
Don't forget to join me and support transgender and non-binary youth on February 24! Check out the link in my bio to RSVP.

Other Social Tips and Tricks:

Adding Jazz & Friends photos to your posts can make them more engaging and fun.

Remember to post about your event more than once and more often as it gets closer to the big day. Also link it to your Facebook event (if you have one).

If you'd like your posts and photos to be shared by HRC, please:

- + Tag us on Twitter and Instagram and use the hashtag #JazzAndFriends!
 - Twitter: [@HRC](#)
 - Instagram: [@HumanRightsCampaign](#)
- + Send any photos you take at your event to photos@hrc.org.

