



Reading Guide

Pre-K through 3rd Grade

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Grow Engage Read Imagine (GERI) Program Overview



CHANGING SOCIAL NORMS
GERI uses books to offer alternatives to violence



PROMOTING YOUTH LEADERSHIP
Stories show characters of diverse backgrounds and beliefs



EMPOWERING PARENTS AND CAREGIVERS
Empowering parents to have ongoing conversations on healthy relationships

Grow Engage Read Imagine (GERI) is an initiative of Safe Haven Ministries, promoting healthy communities through reading.

GERI's goal is to prevent violence, beginning with young children, encouraging and supporting healthy relationships and non-violent conflict resolution.

Find the PreK-3rd grade GERI book collection and resources in the "Book Nook" displays at these GRPL branch locations: **Seymour, West Leonard, Yankee Clipper, & Main (Youth Services).**



Scan here,
or visit gerigr.org
to learn more.



Grow Engage Read Imagine (GERI) is an initiative of Safe Haven Ministries, and is funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Safe Haven is a comprehensive domestic violence agency located in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Safe Haven believes violence is completely preventable. We believe that we can inspire our community and others to unite in ending violence. This reading initiative seeks to use books to heal, teach, and empower. We want to give caregivers and parents tools and resources to help them have important conversations with their child(ren).

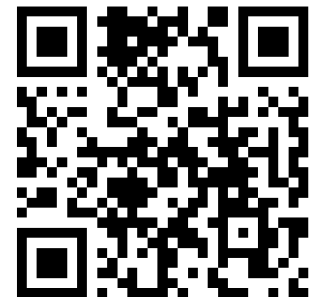
The selected books are age-appropriate and rooted in child development theory, best reading practices for children, and best practices in violence prevention education. The main topics explored include:

Bullying
Boundaries & Consent
Communication
Community
Creativity & Imagination
Diversity, Equity, Inclusion
Empowerment / Leadership

Family & Family Structure
Feelings & Emotions
Friendship
Representation
Respect
Self-Esteem

When parents and children read about people who communicate effectively, set healthy boundaries, connect to communities, imagine the future, welcome and include, become leaders, build healthy family relationships, appropriately express emotions, strengthen friendships, and practice respect, ways to prevent violence are engaged and imagined. Growing and following these examples leads to peaceful and flourishing neighborhoods.

The Centers For Disease Control and Prevention calls the ideas above “protective factors.” Watch the “[Moving Forward](#)”¹ video on YouTube to learn more about protective factors.



"Moving Forward"
video

¹ <https://youtu.be/FJDwe2RkOqo>

Important Note for Caregivers

Violence is a sad reality in our world, and many people in our community experience violence regularly. Some of the books included in the GERI collection contain stories that show different forms of harm. Safe Haven's goal is not to show or promote violence for entertainment or shock value. Our first goal is to support families as they learn and talk about important topics like **Bullying, Boundaries, Consent, Communication, Community, Creativity, Imagination, Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, Family, Feelings, Emotions, Friendship, Representation, Respect, and Self-Esteem**. It is our hope that we can all work together to nurture safe and supportive communities for everyone.

When Your Child Wants to Share

It is difficult to imagine that anyone would want to harm a child. But the truth is that there are many people who will. Sometimes, talking to children about topics addressed in the GERI books can lead to a child opening up about violence or abuse they have experienced. We call this "making a disclosure."

It's usually difficult to receive this disclosure, but it's important to remember that this is a result of your support. The child felt safe enough to tell you. This is important because, all too often, children and teens don't initially disclose abuse out of fear.

Below are four important steps you can take following a disclosure:

1. Thank them for trusting you and let them know you believe them.
2. Let them know that what was done to them was not their fault and that you're sorry they were harmed.
3. Keep them away from the person who harmed them
4. Seek professional help to support them

Self Care

When you're reading, remember your own self-care. If what you read feels overwhelming, take a break. Reach out to someone you trust to talk about how you are feeling.

Reading about any type of violence can feel heavy. If you have personally experienced violence or abuse, it can be especially difficult to talk to your child(ren) about topics that remind you of your own experience.

Reading these books with a child or discussing the books can bring up difficult feelings. These feelings are normal. To address these challenges, try building a system of support that helps you as you begin to explore more of these topics in depth with the children in your life. These additional supports will aid in processing those hurtful reminders and understanding the responses you may have to them.

Supports may look like:

- Calling hotlines that specialize in domestic and sexual violence
- Reaching out to advocates at local domestic and sexual violence agencies
- Having a friend, a family member, or a partner that you can speak with
- Putting a pause on the discussion until you're emotionally ready to continue

You aren't alone, and you don't have to go through it alone. On **page 44** of this guide, you will find a community resource directory.

Safe Haven is a place to visit/call/text for help and support.

**Safe Haven Ministries
2627 Birchcrest Dr. SE (8a-5p)
616-452-6664 (24/7)
Webchat is available at shmgr.org (24/7)**

PreK - 3rd Grade



Discussion & Activity Guide

The PreK - 3rd Grade Discussion and Activity Guide pairs with Grow Engage Read Imagine (GERI) books for children up to 8 years old. The guide includes a brief description of each book and its main topics. There are discussion questions to help guide ongoing conversations with your child(ren), and fun activities designed to promote healthy relationships, boundaries, and positive social norms.



All Are Welcome

by Alexandra Penfold, Suzanne Kaufman

Description: The children at this school are all unique and different from each other, but all are welcome. At this school, kids in patkas, hijabs, yarmulkes, and baseball caps all play together. Follow the friends along as they learn from each other and gather to celebrate Lunar New Year with their community.

Topics: Community; Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (DEI); Respect

Discussion Questions

1. What does it mean to include someone? When have you felt included?
2. What does it mean to exclude someone? How does it feel to be excluded?
3. In *All Are Welcome*, everyone can come as themselves. How can you be welcoming to other people?

Activity

Drawing Community

At the end of *All are Welcome*, everyone comes together for a community meal and event. Have children draw their own version of sharing a community event by drawing people who represent their community in attendance.

The Color Monster: A Story About Emotions

by Anna Llenas

Description: One day, Color Monster wakes up feeling very confused. His emotions are all over the place; he feels angry, happy, calm, sad, and scared all at once! To help him, a little girl shows him what each feeling means through color. As this adorable monster learns to sort and define his mixed up emotions, he gains self-awareness and peace as a result.

Topics: Feelings, Emotions

Discussion Questions

1. What does Color Monster's friend say to do when feelings are all mixed up?
2. When you are scared, who makes you feel brave?
3. What is the last color in the book and what do you think it means?

Activity

Emotion Bingo

Create a bingo board for your child, each with 12 squares that feature various feelings/ faces (you can add more squares for older children). Have children draw a feeling name from a bag and then cover the matching feeling face with the paper that was drawn from the bag. When they cover a face, they can talk about events or memories that made them feel that emotion.

Feelings Jar Coloring Page

The *Feelings Jar* coloring activity on the next page is a great activity to go along with *The Color Monster*.

NOTE: A complete set of **Activity Printables and Worksheets** is also included on [page 45](#) of this guide, along with info on how to download additional copies.

Name: _____



Feelings Jar

Fill this jar with words and pictures to show how you are feeling.



Counting On Community

by Innosanto Nagara

Description: Counting up from one stuffed piñata to ten hefty hens—and always counting on each other—children are encouraged to recognize the value of their community, the joys found in healthy eco-friendly activities, and the agency they possess to make change. A broad and inspiring vision of diversity is told through stories in words and pictures. And, of course, there is a duck to find on every page!

Topics: Community; Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (DEI); Friendship

Discussion Questions

1. What does community mean to you?
2. Can you describe the people and places in your community?

Activity

Community Helpers

Using the “Community Helpers” activity sheet on the next page, help your young reader match members of the community with a description of how each one helps make the community a better place. If possible, we suggest making a copy of the activity page, as it involves cutting and pasting. If making copies is not a possibility, another suggestion is to modify the activity using sticky notes, or simply talking through the activity.

NOTE: A complete set of **Activity Printables and Worksheets** is also included on [page 45](#) of this guide, along with info on how to download additional copies.

Name _____



Community Helpers

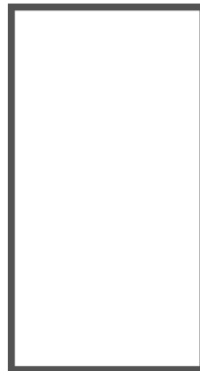
Cut out the pictures of the community helpers below and glue them into the correct box.



Who helps to keep us healthy?



Who flies a spaceship?



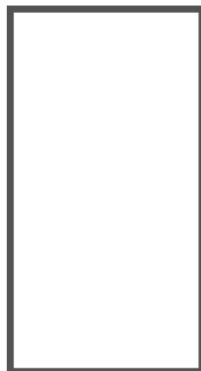
Who grows fruits and vegetables?



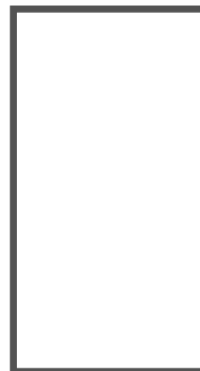
Who helps you to read and write?



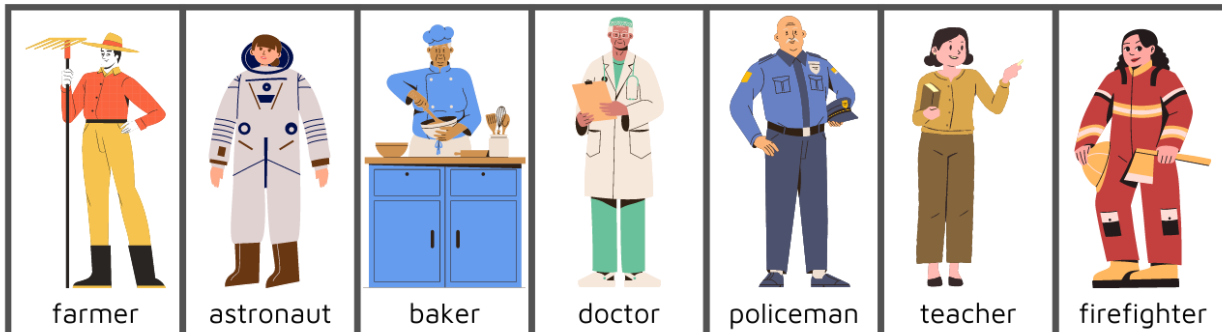
Who puts out fires?



Who bakes cakes and pies?



Who helps keep us safe?



Daniel the Tiger: Won't You Be My Neighbor

by Rachel Kalban and Illustrated by Jason Frutcher

Description: Inspired by the classic series Mr. Roger's Neighborhood. Come along with Daniel the Tiger as he discovers what it means to be a good neighbor.

Topics: Community, Friendship, Respect

Discussion Questions

1. What does it mean to be a good neighbor?
2. Sometimes our neighbors can be our good friends. What are things that you and your friends like to do together?
3. What's something nice that you can do for someone in your neighborhood?

Activity

Friendly Neighbor Calendar

Use Daniel Tiger as an influence to help your child be a good neighbor. Together, create a weekly calendar of tasks that good neighbors can do. For example, Mondays are for helping our neighbors clean; a good neighbor keeps their room clean.

The Day You Begin

by Jacqueline Woodson and illustrated by Rafael López

Description: Sooner or later, you will face a time when you walk into a room and find that nobody there is quite like you. There are lots of reasons you might feel different, whether it's the way you look, the way you talk, where you're from, or what you eat. It's not easy to take those first steps when nobody knows you yet, but somehow you find the courage to do it.

Topics: Community; Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (DEI); Friendship

Discussion Questions and Activities

1. Are there times you feel different from those around you? When is that?
2. The other kids didn't always understand their classmates. How can you make someone who is different from you feel welcome?
3. What is one thing that is special or unique about you?

Activity

Draw What Makes You Feel Confident

In *The Day You Begin*, each child talked about not feeling brave enough to express themselves. With your young reader, have them draw out what makes them feel brave and confident. After they finish their drawing, have them answer the following questions:

1. What is your drawing of?
2. Why does it make you feel confident?
3. Can you use this to make others feel brave?

Don't Touch My Hair!

by Sharee Miller

Description: Just about everywhere Aria goes, someone wants to touch her fluffy, curly hair. Whether she's in the street, under the sea, in the jungle, or even in space, strangers (and strange creatures) try to touch Aria's hair. Finally, she has had enough!

Topics: Boundaries & Consent; Communication; Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (DEI); Empowerment

Discussion Questions

1. What does Aria love about herself? Name two things you like about yourself.
2. Do you think Aria likes it when people try to touch her hair?
3. How can you tell someone that something that they are doing makes you feel uncomfortable?

Activity

Hair Stylist in the Making

Using flat paper plates, have children draw and color faces on however many they like. Then, using a pair of scissors, have them create new hairstyles for their paper plate friends. If you have glue and yarn, you could get creative with even more fun hairstyles!

Giraffes Can't Dance

by Giles Andreae and Guy Parker-Rees

Description: Gerald the Giraffe just wants to dance, but like all giraffes, he has crooked knees and thin legs. It's hard for giraffes to dance! Thankfully, Gerald figures out how to dance his own way after hearing some encouragement from an unlikely friend.

Topics: Bullying, Self-esteem

Discussion Questions

1. What is Gerald the Giraffe good at doing?
2. What kind of things are you good at?
3. What kind of music do you like to dance to?
4. The cricket helps Gerald feel better when he is sad. Who (or what) makes you feel better when you are sad?

Activity

Have an Animal Dance Party!

Write down the names of a few different animals and then place them into a hat or small container. Have children pick out different animals, and create their own dances, based on how they think that animal would dance. Maybe they'll decide to tango like a T-Rex or cha cha like a cheetah. The point is to have as much fun and be as creative as possible!

Guess What I Can Be?

by Marcel Gamble and Illustrated by Chris B. Dudley

Description: A book that takes kids on a journey to explore various career paths in an imaginative way. It's filled with vibrant illustrations and has a poetic and fun flow to grab the attention of young readers.

Topics: Creativity; Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (DEI); Empowerment; Representation

Discussion Prompt:

Adults, share with your child(ren) what you wanted to be when you were their age and what you want to be now.

Ask: What do you want to be when you grow up?

Have your young reader choose at least three different jobs they would want to have when they are a grown up.

Activity

Roll and Tell - All About Jobs

Use the worksheet on the next page for a fun review of occupations and community helpers. Complete this activity with your young reader, or have readers work together in pairs or small groups. Dice will be helpful (though not required) for this activity.

NOTE: A complete set of **Activity Printables and Worksheets** is also included on [page 45](#) of this guide, along with info on how to download additional copies.

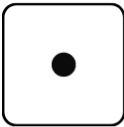







ROLL AND TELL

All about jobs



Do this activity with your young reader, or have readers work together.
 Randomly choose questions, or take turns to roll dice.
 On each turn, players get to tell something about community helpers.

	Who works in an office?	Who helps you learn to read and write?	Who delivers the mail?
	Who helps you when you are in trouble?	What is your parent's job?	What do you want to be when you grow up?
	Name 3 community helpers who work with animals	What do you want to be when you grow up?	Name 3 community helpers who work at school
	Where does a doctor work?	Who helps put out fires?	Who cooks food in a restaurant?
	Name 3 community helpers who wear a uniform	Name 3 community helpers who fix things	Name 3 actions that community helpers do
	What does a painter need, to work?	What do astronauts do?	Who helps people get from one place to another?

Hug Me

by Simona Ciraolo

Description: If you ever feel like you need a really big hug, you know exactly how Felipe the cactus feels. Of course, we also know that cactuses aren't exactly touchy-feely. Felipe's family is quite prickly! So, Felipe heads out to find a friend and, hopefully, a big hug.

Topics: Boundaries & Consent, Friendship

Discussion Questions

1. Why doesn't Felipe's family like to give hugs? What happens when you touch a cactus?
2. Felipe just wanted to hug his friend Balloon, but he hurt him. What can you do when you hurt someone, but not on purpose?

Activity

Greetings and Goodbye Chart!

This activity is a great way to teach kids about creating boundaries. Create a chart with drawings or symbols of actions for saying goodbye or hello. Work with your child to create options for the chart, like hugs, a pat on the back, mini dance parties, or a fist bump. Each day as they leave or are coming home, they get to decide what they would like to do.

I Like it When/Me Gusta Cuando

by Mary Murphy

Description: A loving tale of a little penguin detailing all that it likes about spending the day with a loving caregiver.

Topics: Emotions, Family

Discussion Questions

1. What are three things the baby penguin likes to do with the older penguin?
2. How can children help their parents?
3. What's one thing you love to do with your parent(s)?

Activity

Let's Make a Book!

Together with your child, create a mini scrapbook of all your favorite memories together. Use drawings, photos, stickers, and all other types of colorful methods to create your own "I Like It When" Book.

Julián Is a Mermaid

by Jessica Love

Description: Julián notices three women on the subway dressed up in beautiful gowns that end in fishtails and bright, billowing hair. When he gets home, he starts daydreaming about the magic he has seen and wants to dress up in his own fabulous mermaid costume. Julián sets off to create a tail from a butter-yellow curtain and a headdress from a potted fern. What will Julián's abuela think of the mess he's made or the costume he's created?

Topics: Creativity; Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (DEI); Empowerment; Family; Self-Esteem

Discussion Questions

1. How would you respond to Julián if he was your friend?
2. How could you make Julián feel welcome?

Activity

Mermaid Tails

Everyone can be a mermaid if they want to! Grab some colorful paper, crayons, glitter, and glue. Have children cut out what their mermaid tail would look like and then have them design it in whatever shape or fashion they please.

La Catrina: Emotions-Emociones

by Patty Rodriguez and Ariana Stein

Description: Inspired by one of the most recognized symbols of Día de los Muertos (Day of the Dead), this book introduces little ones to emotional expressions and their first English and Spanish words—and teaches them to recognize feelings like emocionado (excited), triste (sad), and confiado (confident).

Topics: Communication, Emotions

Discussion Questions

1. What does the word confident mean? What makes you feel confident?
2. How do you show your feelings to others?
3. What can you do to make someone feel loved?

Activity

Emotion Chart

For this activity you will need crayons/colored pencils, paper, and a pencil. Just like this book shows us different emotions, let's draw different faces to show different feelings. Sometimes it can be hard to express ourselves, but creating and using an emotion chart can help us say what we are feeling. Draw a face for happiness, anger, fear, excitement, sadness, and any other emotions you can think of. Draw them in any color you like and then put the chart where you can see it for the future.

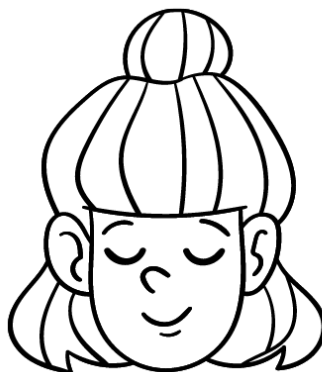
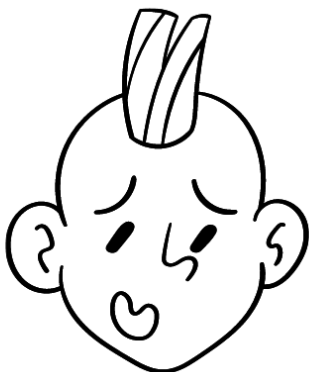
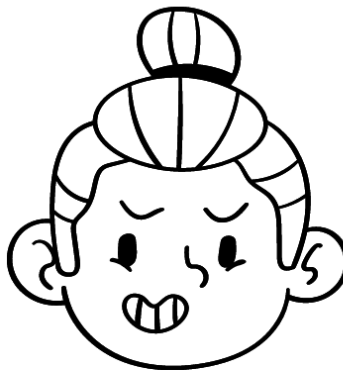
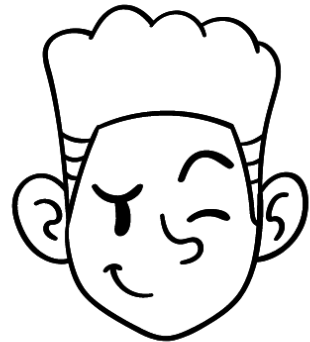
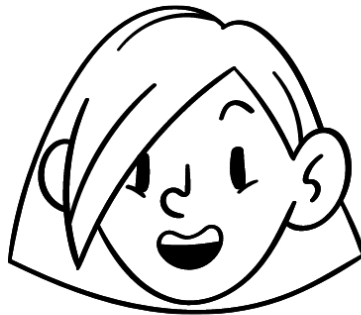
Emotions Coloring Page

The *Emotions* coloring activity on the next page is a great activity to go along with this book.

NOTE: A complete set of **Activity Printables and Worksheets** is also included on [page 45](#) of this guide, along with info on how to download additional copies.

EMOTIONS!

Name each emotion or feeling shown in the faces below.
Use colored pencil or crayons to add color to each one.



Mango Moon

by Diane De Anda and Illustrated by Sue Conelison

Description: When a father is taken away from his family and facing deportation, his children are left to grieve and wonder about what comes next. Maricela, Manuel, and their mother face the many challenges of having their lives completely changed by the absence of their father and husband. Their day-to-day norm now includes moving to a new house, missed soccer games and birthday parties, and emptiness. Maricela learns that her love for her father continues on even though he's no longer part of her daily life.

Topics: Community; Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (DEI); Family; Representation

Discussion Questions and Activities

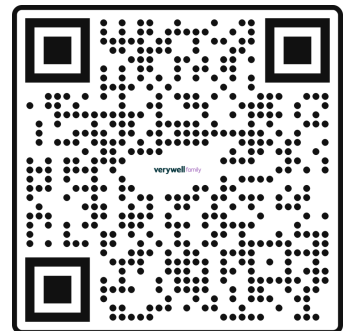
1. What happened to Marciela's Papi?
2. Why does Marciela and her family have to move?
3. What does Marciela's Mama tell her about love?

Activity

Developing Coping Skills

Caregivers can help their child(ren) create their own list of healthy coping skills. Verywell Family has put together several resources and activities to help parents and caregivers teach coping skills to their children

Visit [verywellfamily.com/coping-skills-for-kids-4586871](https://www.verywellfamily.com/coping-skills-for-kids-4586871) for examples of coping skills children can use by themselves or with support from others.



Scan to explore
15 Coping Strategies
for Kids

Mango, Abuela, and Me

by Meg Medina and Illustrated by Angela Dominguez

Description: Mia's abuela leaves her sunny house with parrots and palm trees to move in with Mia and her parents in the city. When she arrives, Mia wants to share her favorite book before bedtime, but learns that Abuela can't read it. Mia decides to help Abuela learn English while they cook together, and she gets to learn some Spanish herself. It's hard for Abuela to learn and tell Mia her stories, but they have some help after Mia sees a parrot in the window.

Topics: Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (DEI); Empowerment; Family

Discussion Questions

1. What does Mia do to help her abuela learn English?
2. What does Mia get her abuela to make her feel less homesick?

Activity

Practice a New Language

Mia and her abuela had a hard time communicating at first. But with some practice, they were able to learn from each other. If you and your child(ren) want to try to learn a new language, try labeling things around your house or classroom with the name of the object in the language you want to learn.

Miles is the Boss of His Body

by Abbie Schiller and Samantha Kurtzman-Counter

Description: It's Miles' 6th birthday, but he's not thrilled about being pinched, hugged too tight, noogied, picked up, or tickled by his family. They mean well, but Miles has had enough! He announces that he is the boss of his body, and his family supports and respects his personal boundaries.

Topics: Boundaries & Consent, Communication

Discussion Questions and Activities

1. What was so special about Miles' day?
2. Do you think that Miles liked receiving a "birthday noogie"? Why or why not?
3. When you are upset by something, how do you deal with it?

Read and Review

After you finish reading, go back through our story and have children describe Miles' interactions with his family, The Birthday Chicken, and the Pizza man. Ask them about what they would have done for each person to let them know they were uncomfortable.

Missing Daddy

by Mariame Kaba and Illustrated by Bria Royal

Description: In this story, a little girl who misses her father because he's incarcerated, shares how his absence affects different parts of her life. Her greatest excitement is the days when she gets to visit her beloved father.

Topics: Emotions, Family

Discussion Questions

1. What does it mean to be a family?
2. Where did the little girl's Daddy go?
3. How does the little girl feel about her Daddy being in prison?

Activity

Watch Together

Go to YouTube and check out the video [Sesame Street in Communities](#) is a youtube channel created by Sesame Street about a variety of topics that children may experience in the areas of health and well-being, school readiness, and emotional well-being.

PLEASE NOTE: Some of the content and topics presented are more sensitive, so you should preview these videos before sharing with a child. This particular episode contains a character that is sad about his dad being incarcerated followed by other children sharing their feelings about their parents being in jail.



My Papi Has A Motorcycle

by Isabel Quintero and Illustrated by Zeke Peña

Description: When Daisy Ramona zooms around her neighborhood with her papi on his motorcycle, she sees the people and places she's always known. She also sees a community that is rapidly changing around her. But as the sun sets purple-blue-gold behind Daisy Ramona and her papi, she knows that the love she feels will always be there.

Topics: Community, Family

Discussion Questions

1. What are some things your family does together after school and work?
2. Daisy notices many changes taking place in her community, but one of the final things she says is that "in our little house there are things that will always stay the same". What do you think this means?

Activity

'Neighborhood Ride' Book

All communities have a history. Daisy and her papi live in a neighborhood filled with historical value. Take some time to map out places in your community that have history. These could be murals, parks, buildings, and old statues. Then, like Daisy and her papi, go for a neighborhood ride or walk with children to these destinations. Have your child take pictures so that they can create a mini book of the places they have been in their community.

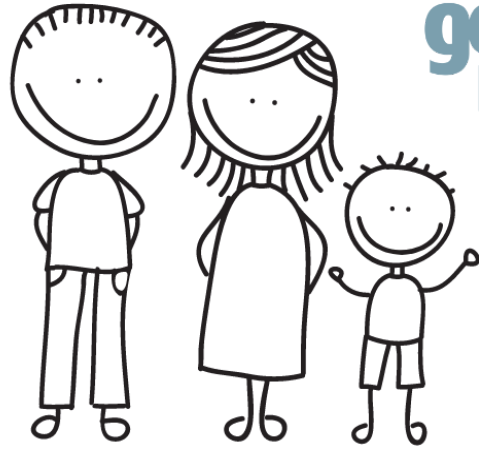
'My Family' Activity Page

See the next page for a drawing activity that asks young readers to draw and label all of the members of their family.

NOTE: A complete set of **Activity Printables and Worksheets** is also included on [page 45](#) of this guide, along with info on how to download additional copies.

MY FAMILY

Draw a picture of your family and label them.
Be sure to include any pets you have!

A large, empty rectangular box with a black border, intended for the user to draw their family and label the members.

My Three Best Friends and Me, Zulay

by Cari Best and Illustrated by Vanessa Brantley-Newton

Description: Zulay and her three best friends are all in the same first grade class. They study the same things, even though Zulay is blind. When their teacher asks her students what activity they want to do on Field Day, Zulay surprises everyone when she says she wants to run a race. With the help of a special aide and the support of her friends, Zulay does just that.

Topics: Community; Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (DEI); Friendship

Discussion Questions

1. Zulay says that she sees with her fingers. What does she mean by that?
2. Why does Zulay feel uncomfortable using her cane? Can trying new things be scary?
3. Can you name a time you were afraid you couldn't do something but your friends helped you do it?

Activity

Let's Watch Together!

Check out “Kids Meet a Guide Dog for the Blind” with HiHo Kids on youtube. HiHo Kids is a platform devoted to helping children explore the world and the people in it with them.

In this video children will meet Camille and her guide dog Egan as children ask questions about Camille’s experiences being blind and how Egan supports her.



The Name Jar

by Yangsook Choi

Description: Being the new kid in school is hard enough, but what about when nobody can pronounce your name? Having just moved from Korea, Unhei is anxious about whether American kids will like her. So instead of introducing herself on the first day of school, she tells the class that she will choose a name by the following week. Her new classmates are fascinated by this no-name girl and decide to help out by filling a glass jar with names for her to pick from. On the day of her name choosing, the name jar mysteriously disappeared. Encouraged by her new friends, Unhei chooses her own Korean name and helps everyone pronounce it—*Yoon-Hey*.

Topics: Boundaries; Communication; Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (DEI); Representation; Respect

Discussion Questions and Activities

1. How would you react if someone was bullying your friend about their name?
2. Why do you think Unhei does not share her name with her classmates?
3. What does Unhei's mom tell her when she wants to pick an "American" name?
4. What happened to the name jar? Who took it and why?

Activity

What Does Your Name Mean?

All names are beautiful and special. Unhei learned that the meaning of her name was "grace." Have children research what their names mean and where they come from. Together with your child, write their name out on paper in big letters and have them decorate their name to show how special it is.

Pink is for Boys

by Robb Pearlman, Eda Kaban

Description: In this picture book, we're reminded that pink is for boys, and girls, and everyone! Rethink the gender binary and the blue/pink stereotype. In this beautiful book, kids and grown ups are empowered to express themselves however they choose. Readers can see themselves in a diverse group of characters, and be reassured that it's okay to enjoy whatever it is you love to do—whether that's playing sports, dressing up, daydreaming about unicorns, or racing cars!

Topics: Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (DEI); Respect

Discussion Questions

1. What is your favorite color and why is it your favorite?
2. All the kids in our story wear whatever color they like. Has anyone ever told you that there were colors you weren't supposed to like?
3. Can boys like pink? Why or why not?
4. Are there things that only boys or only girls are supposed to do?

Activities

For Parents

Amaze.org is a great parent tool. It offers various videos that are age-appropriate and medically-accurate about sex education. For help on understanding and explaining gender, check out their video on Gender and Gender Stereotypes.

For Kids

Along with your child, watch Amaze's video called "**Help Kids Learn About Gender (with Scoops and Friends).**" This fun video teaches children about gender stereotypes and helps them understand that it's ok if boys like pink or girls want to play with fire trucks.



Some Secrets Should Never Be Kept:

Protect children from unsafe touch by teaching them to always speak up

by Jayneen Sanders, Illustrated by Craig Smith

Description: Just like we teach kids to be safe around water or the road, we must teach them body safety in a way that isn't scary or confrontational. This beautiful picture book sensitively talks about the topic of unsafe and unwanted touch. Parents and children can also lean on the notes to the reader and discussion questions found within the book.

Topics: Boundaries & Consent, Communication

Discussion Questions

1. When someone tells you to keep an unsafe secret, what should you do?
2. Who are three trusted adults you can talk to?

Activities

For Parents

The book *Some Secrets Should Never Be Kept* contains super helpful resources prior to and following the story. **Please be sure to read the introduction.** It contains helpful tips on reading this story with young readers. The discussion questions at the end of the story are also highly recommended.

Check our **Parent Toolkit and other helpful resources** online at www.GeriGR.org for ways to talk about consent and boundaries with young children.

Learn About Safe and Unsafe Touch

The Barbara Sinatra Children's Center Foundation created a video for children talking about safe and unsafe touches. The video can be found on their YouTube page labeled [Protect Yourself Rules - Safe Touch / Unsafe Touch](#). We suggest parents watch beforehand to prepare themselves for questions children might have during the video.



Start with Sorry

by P.T. Finch and Illustrated by Gokhan Bas

Description: Three-year-old Luna loves spending time with her older brother Asher. They do almost everything together. But when they sit down to draw pictures, Luna feels upset she can't do everything Asher can and reacts in anger, hurting Asher's feelings. With Mommy's help, Luna learns to make amends for hurting her brother's feelings.

Topics: Communication, Emotions, Respect

Discussion Questions

1. Why was Luna sad about the cat she drew?
2. When Luna gets upset, what does she do? (Adults, help name all the things Luna did when she was angry.) When you get angry what do you do?
3. Why does Asher begin to cry? How does Luna help Asher feel better?

Activities

The Feeling Jar

For this activity you will need a cup or a jar, a pack of multi-color pom poms, and a clear space. The point of this activity is to help children recognize the different emotions they are feeling. Together with your child, help them determine what feeling goes to each color pom pom. After, ask them to fill the jar up with whatever current emotion they are feeling. The Feeling Jar can be used for when kids have emotions too big for words. The jar can help them communicate that.

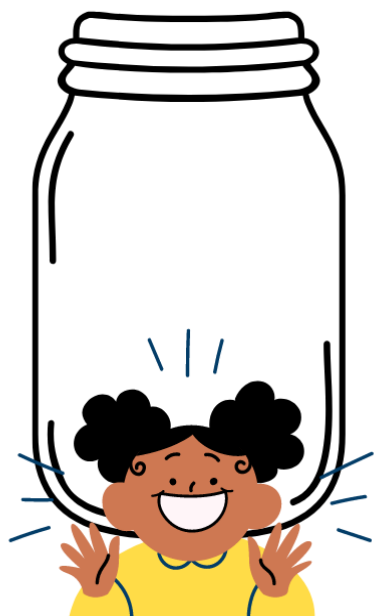
OR:

See the next page for a fun "Feeling Jar" activity sheet! Young readers will use color to show how they are feeling today.

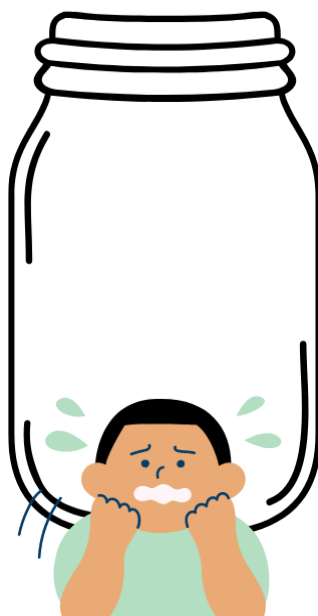
NOTE: A complete set of **Activity Printables and Worksheets** is also included on [page 45](#) of this guide, along with info on how to download additional copies.

TODAY I FEEL...

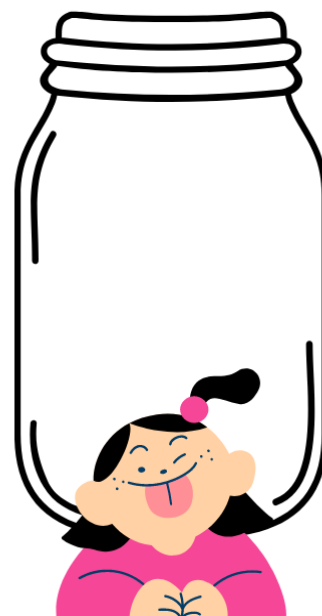
Color the jars according to how you feel today.



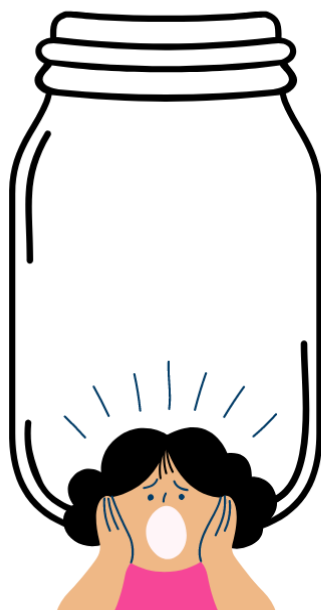
HAPPY



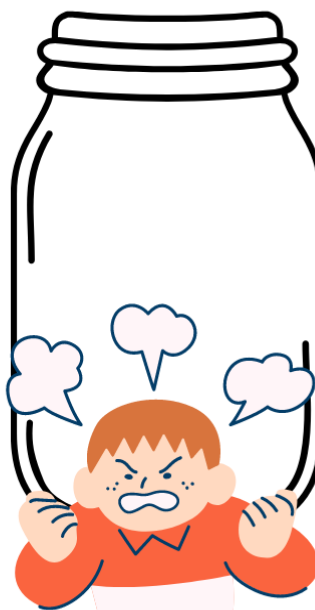
ANXIOUS



FUNNY



SURPRISED



ANGRY

Glossary of Terms

Boundaries	Limits and rules we set in our relationships to make sure they stay healthy and safe
Consent	Permission for something to happen or agreement to do something
Disclosure	Something (such as information) that is made known or revealed
Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DE&I)	Promotes the fair treatment and full participation of all people, especially in the workplace, including populations who have historically been under-represented or subject to discrimination because of their background, identity, disability, etc.
Domestic Violence	A pattern of abusive behavior in any relationship that is used by one partner to gain or maintain power and control over another intimate partner.
Gender Equity	Respecting all people without discrimination, regardless of their gender and addressing gender inequalities that limit a person's ability to access opportunities to achieve better health, education and economic opportunity based on their gender.
Inclusive	Including all people or groups involved in something
Marginalization	Discrimination and exclusion because of unequal power relationships across economic, political, social and cultural dimensions.
Sexual Violence	Any sexual act committed or attempted by another person against an individual who has not freely given consent or is unable to consent or refuse. This includes both unwanted sexual contact and sexual harassment.
Social Norms	The unwritten or unspoken rules that influence how people in a society behave.

GERI Website and Online Tools (GeriGR.org)

The Grow Engage Read Imagine (GERI) Website provides additional information about the GERI program, and includes additional discussion questions for each book in the collection. There are also a variety of resources for parents and caregivers, in the form of an online Parent Toolkit.

The online parent toolkit features information and resources centered around the following topics and more:

- Tips on age appropriate conversations with your child(ren)
- Safe, unsafe, and unwanted touches (Boundaries/Consent)
- Handling disclosures (When your child wants to share)
- Community resources for victims and survivors



Find the toolkit and other helpful resources online at **GeriGR.org**

WE NEED YOUR HELP

We're glad you had an opportunity to read and discuss a book from the GERI collection today!



GERI Survey

We'd like to learn more about your experience with GERI, so that we can measure effectiveness, answer any questions, and continue to make improvements . Completing this brief survey is completely voluntary and anonymous.

After you finish reading and discussing each book, please scan the QR Code or visit **<https://gerigr.org/survey/>** to provide feedback.

Thanks for helping us grow GERI.

Find GERI Books In Your Local Library!

Most books are also available as audio books and E-books using your library's App.
(with a library card)

No Library Card? Get one at your local library!

Accepted forms of ID include: Driver's license, State ID, Military ID, International Drivers license, State ID, Passport, Non-US Consular ID, Residential alien card, State issued tribal ID, Job corps ID, Prison issued ID
If no form of ID is available please **contact your library's Patron Experience Manager.**

GERIGR.ORG



Complete GERI Collection Book List

(several titles also available in Spanish)

Pre-K Books

Counting On Community by Innosanto Nagra

Daniel the Tiger Won't You Be My Neighbor by Rachel Kalban

Giraffes Can't Dance by Giles Andreae
(las Jirafas No Pueden Bailar)

Guess What I Can Be by Marcel C. Gamble

Hug Me by Simona Ciruolo
(Abrázame)

I Like It When/Me Gusta Cuando by Mary Murphy

La Catrina: Emotions by Patty Rodriguez

Miles is the Boss of His Body by Abbie Schiller

Missing Daddy by Mariame Kaba

Start With Sorry by P.T. Finch
(Empieza Por Pedir Perdón)

The Color Monster by Anna Llenas
(El Monstruo de Colores)

K-3rd Grade Books

The Name Jar by Yangsook Choi

My Three Best Friends and Me, Zulay by Cari Best

All Are Welcome by Alexandra Penfold
(Todo El Mundo Cabe Aquí)

Pink Is For Boys by Robb Pearlman

Some Secrets Should Never Be Kept by Jayneen Sanders
(Algunos Secretos Nunca Deben Guardarse)

Mango Moon by Diane de Anda
(La Luna Mango)

Don't Touch My Hair! by Sharee Miller

Mango, Abuela and Me by Meg Medina
(Mango, Abuela y yo)

Julian is a Mermaid by Jessica Love
(Sirenas)

The Day You Begin by Jacqueline Woodson
(El Día en Que Descubres Quien Eres)

My Papi Has A Motorcycle by Isabel Quintero
(Mi Papi Tiene Una Moto)

4th - 8th Grade Books

Amina's Voice by Hena Khan

Front Desk by Kelly Yang

The Jumbies by Tracey Baptiste

Harbor Me by Jacqueline Woodson

Consent (For Kids!) by Rachel Brian
(El Consentimiento ¡Para Niños!)

House On Mango Street by Sandra Cisneros
(La Casa en Mango Street)

Afar by Leila del Duca

Maybe He Just Likes You by Barbara Dee

Tight by Torrey Maldonado

The Prince and the Dressmaker by Jen Wang
(El Príncipe y la Modista)

High School Books

Saints and Misfits by S.K. Ali

The Hate U Give by Angie Thomas
(El Odio Que Das)

Hearts Unbroken by Cynthia Leitich Smith

Speak: The Graphic Novel by Laurie Halse Anderson
(Habla)

The Poet X by Elizabeth Acevedo
(Poet X)

The Perks of Being a Wallflower by Stephen Chbosky
(Las ventajas de ser invisible)

The Outsiders by S.E. Hinton

A Time to Dance by Padma Venkatraman

Additional Resources

This guide was created with the intent to give people who care for children and youth the tools to talk about subjects that often are avoided. Having these kinds of conversations can seem challenging at times. Do your best to speak to kids from a place of concern and care.

If you or someone that you know has experienced or is experiencing violence or abuse, the following local resources can provide free and confidential support:

Local

Safe Haven Ministries

Website: www.shmgr.org

24/7 Hotline: 616- 452- 6664

YWCA West Central Michigan

Website: www.ywcawcmi.org

24/7 Hotline: 616-454 -9922

Children's Advocacy Center of Kent County

Website: www.cac-kent.org

Telephone Number: 616-336-5160

Hispanic Center of Western Michigan

Website: www.hispanic-center.org

Telephone Number: 616-742-0200

National

Rape, Abuse, and Incest National Network (RAINN)

Website: <https://www.rainn.org/>

24/7 Hotline: 800-656-4673

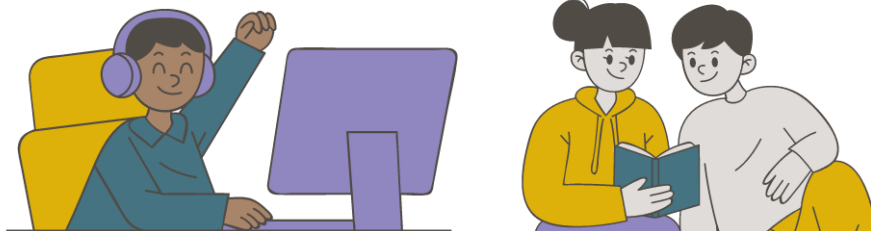
Activity Printables & Worksheets



GERI Printables

The next several pages include worksheets and coloring pages that go along with some of the activities described in this guide.

We recommend that caregivers **make copies of these pages, if possible,** and have children complete the activities on the copied page. If you have access to a printer, you can use the QR code to download our complete activity guide (or visit gerigr.org, and find the “resources” tab).



Name _____



Community Helpers

Cut out the pictures of the community helpers below and glue them into the correct box.



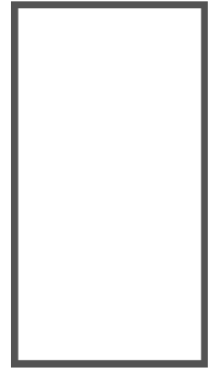
Who helps to keep us healthy?



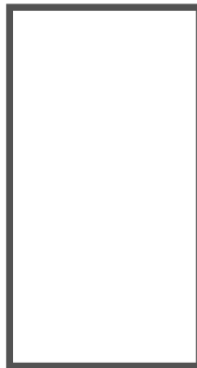
Who flies a spaceship?



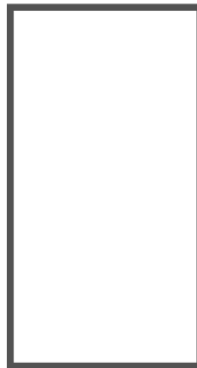
Who grows fruits and vegetables?



Who helps you to read and write?



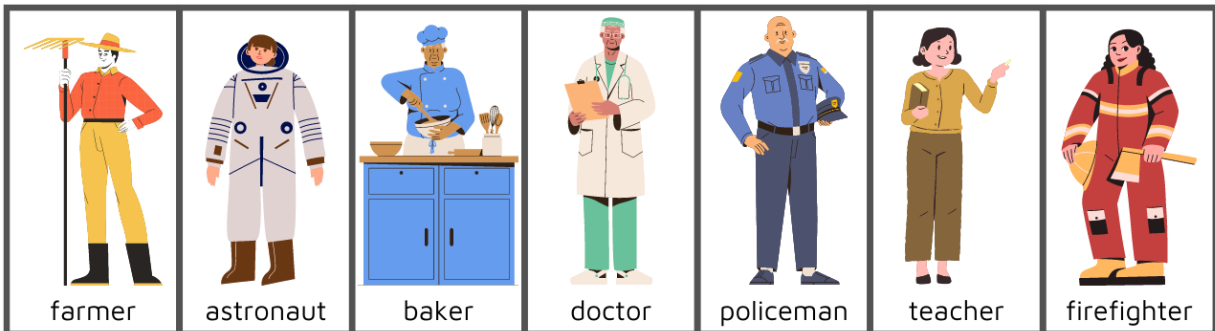
Who puts out fires?



Who bakes cakes and pies?



Who helps keep us safe?



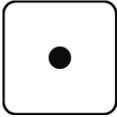







ROLL AND TELL

All about jobs



Do this activity with your young reader, or have readers work together.
Randomly choose questions, or take turns to roll dice.
On each turn, players get to tell something about community helpers.

	Who works in an office?	Who helps you learn to read and write?	Who delivers the mail?
	Who helps you when you are in trouble?	What is your parent's job?	What do you want to be when you grow up?
	Name 3 community helpers who work with animals	What do you want to be when you grow up?	Name 3 community helpers who work at school
	Where does a doctor work?	Who helps put out fires?	Who cooks food in a restaurant?
	Name 3 community helpers who wear a uniform	Name 3 community helpers who fix things	Name 3 actions that community helpers do
	What does a painter need, to work?	What do astronauts do?	Who helps people get from one place to another?

Name: _____



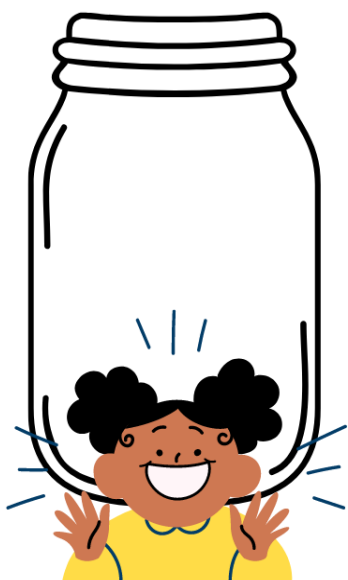
Feelings Jar

Fill this jar with words and pictures to show how you are feeling.

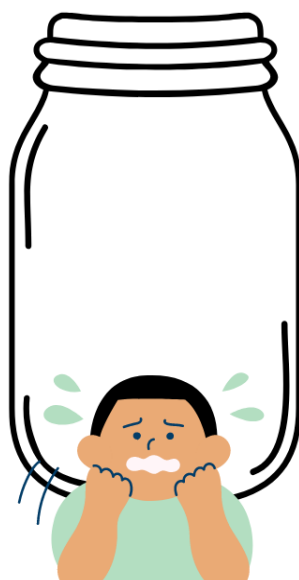


TODAY I FEEL...

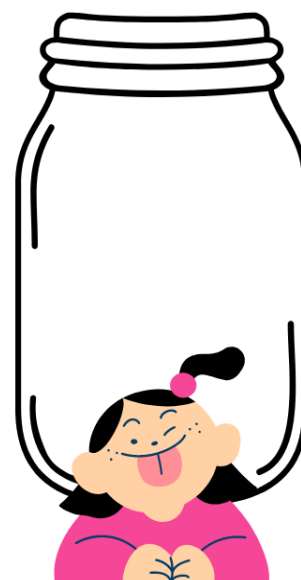
Color the jars according to how you feel today.



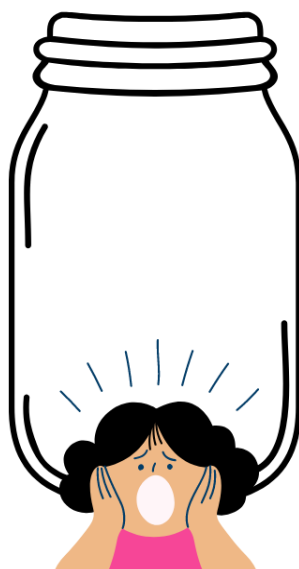
HAPPY



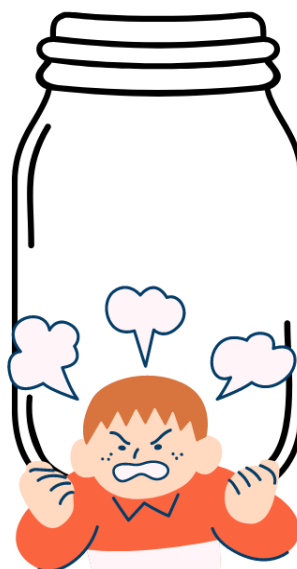
ANXIOUS



FUNNY



SURPRISED

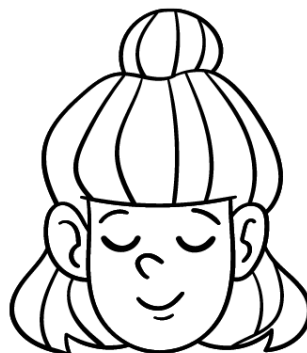
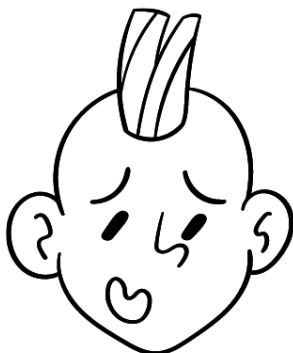
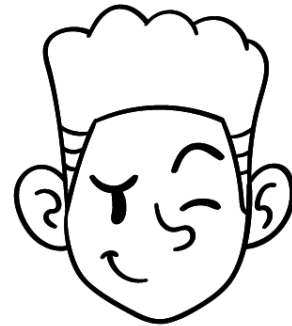
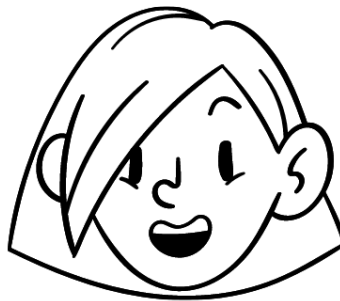


ANGRY

EMOTIONS!



Name each emotion or feeling shown in the faces below.
Use colored pencil or crayons to add color to each one.



Family Members



WORDSEARCH

Find and circle the words.

M	T	F	A	M	I	L	Y	A	S	A	M	G
O	Y	A	E	R	B	R	O	T	H	E	R	R
T	I	T	I	K	J	L	A	B	S	Y	R	A
H	S	H	W	G	N	S	D	T	W	E	N	N
E	K	E	F	S	W	E	A	T	S	R	I	D
R	E	R	D	U	L	O	U	H	I	U	C	M
P	G	R	E	E	H	Y	G	R	S	E	O	O
S	O	N	K	R	E	F	H	J	T	R	U	T
M	Y	M	I	Y	J	V	T	G	E	E	S	H
A	U	N	T	S	K	E	E	E	R	O	I	E
K	U	N	C	L	E	A	R	K	Y	A	N	R
G	R	A	N	D	F	A	T	H	E	R	T	H

- sister
- father
- family
- mother
- son
- aunt
- uncle
- cousin
- brother
- daughter
- grandfather
- grandmother



MY FAMILY

Draw a picture of your family and label them.
Be sure to include any pets you have!

A large, empty rectangular box with a black border, intended for the user to draw their family and label the members.

After reading the book, you're invited to draw or color about what you've read.

