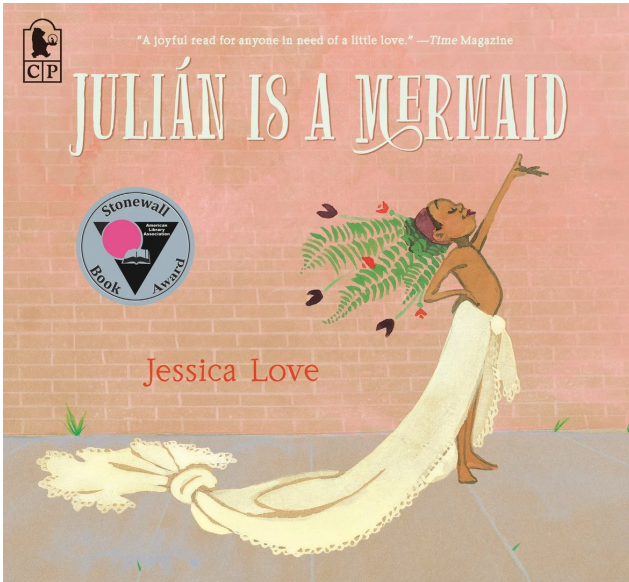


READ-ALoud GUIDE

PRE-K TO 2ND GRADE

JULIAN IS A MERMAID

Written and illustrated by Jessica Love



SUMMARY

Story about a young boy who loves mermaids and expresses himself by creating his own mermaid costume, culminating in his grandmother's loving acceptance and support as they attend the Coney Island Mermaid Parade.

WHY WE CHOSE THIS BOOK

Beautiful illustrations explore self-expression, gender identity, unconditional love, and finding your community.

VOCABULARY

Define these words together:

Mermaid: A pretend creature with the upper body of a girl and the tail of a fish.

Costume: An outfit worn to create the illusion of another person or animal.

Abuela: The Spanish word for "grand-mother."

QUESTIONS TO ASK BEFORE READING

1. Look at the cover. What do you notice? What might this story be about?
2. Have you ever pretended to be something or someone else?

QUESTIONS TO ASK WHILE READING

1. What do you think Julián felt when he saw the mermaids on the subway?
2. How do you think Abuela is going to react?
3. Why do you think Julian loves mermaids so much?

QUESTIONS TO ASK AFTER READING

1. if you could transform into anything, what would you be?
2. What makes you, you? How do you like to express yourself?
3. Why do you think Abuela took Julian to the mermaid parade?
4. What are some ways we can make sure our friends feel safe and happy being themselves?

EARLY LITERACY ACTIVITIES DURING OR AFTER A READ-ALoud

- Point out letters and sounds in the story.
- Clap syllables in character names or interesting words.
- Find rhyming or alliterative words together.
- Play "I Spy" with beginning sounds using objects in the illustrations.
- Trace or build letters from favorite words in the book.
- Draw a picture of yourself as a mermaid or other mythical creature.
- Dress up in a costume and pretend you're in a parade.