

Different
Ways.
Same Family.
♡

The Sign Between Us

A Middle Grade Novel

Discussion & Reflection Guide

Real Kids. Real Challenges. A Brighter, More Inclusive Tomorrow. ♡

About the Book

The Sign Between Us follows nine-year-old Micah and his new sister, Lena, who is Deaf and communicates using American Sign Language (ASL).

At first, Micah makes mistakes—some funny, some awkward, and some that are harder. But as he learns to slow down, really look, and try again, he discovers that family isn't just about saying the right thing. It's about showing up, being patient, and finding new ways to connect.

This heartwarming and often funny story celebrates siblinghood, communication, kindness, and the many ways we can understand each other—more than words.



A different
language.
A bigger world.
♡

Before Reading

You might ask:

- 1 What does it mean to be Deaf?
- 2 How can people communicate without using their voice?
- 3 What are some things you already know about sign language?
- 4 Why do you think it's important to be kind and patient when learning something new?

There are no right or wrong answers. Let children share as much—or as little—as they feel comfortable.

Try This: Learn a Sign Together

Pick a few simple signs to learn as a family or class. You might start with:

- ♡ Hello
- ♡ Thank you
- ♡ Friend
- ♡ Family
- ♡ I love you



Suggested Age Range Ages 8–12

Best used with:

- Parents and caregivers
- Teachers
- School counselors
- Librarians
- Child life specialists
- ASL educators
- Siblings and families
- Classroom discussions
- Book clubs

Key Themes

- Deafness and ASL
- Siblings and family relationships
- Patience and understanding
- Different ways to communicate
- Inclusion and belonging
- Kindness and empathy
- Mistakes are part of learning
- Celebrating differences
- A more accessible and kinder world
- You are not alone

More than words. ♡

Let's Talk About Micah and Lena

- 1 How do you think Micah felt when he first met Lena?
- 2 What were some of the challenges Micah faced?
- 3 What helped Micah learn and be a better brother?
- 4 How do you think Lena felt when Micah kept trying?
- 5 What does this story teach us about making mistakes?
- 6 How can we be a good friend or family member to someone who is Deaf?
- 7 What does "family" mean to you?
- 8 What would you say to Micah or Lena if you could talk to them?

A Note for Adults

This book can be a powerful tool for starting conversations about Deafness, ASL, inclusion, and disability. Some children may have personal experiences with hearing loss or communication differences, while others may be learning about it for the first time.

- ♡ Follow the child's lead and be open to their questions.
- ♡ Use respectful, accurate language (Deaf with a capital "D" is often preferred).
- ♡ Celebrate curiosity and a willingness to learn.
- ♡ Consider exploring local ASL resources, Deaf community events, or inclusive books together.
- ♡ Focus on the strengths, kindness, and new possibilities shown in the story.

Different ways. Same heart. A brighter, more inclusive tomorrow. ♡

Why This Book Matters

The Sign Between Us helps children see that people communicate in different ways, and that all ways of communicating are valid and important.

This story helps children understand:

- ♡ Being Deaf is a difference, not a limitation.
- ♡ It's okay to make mistakes while learning something new.
- ♡ People can communicate in many ways, including American Sign Language (ASL).
- ♡ Patience, respect, and curiosity help build stronger relationships.
- ♡ Inclusion makes everyone's world brighter.
- ♡ Families may look and communicate differently, and that's a good thing.

It opens the door for meaningful conversations about disability, accessibility, and how we can create kinder, more inclusive communities.



Different minds.
Brighter tomorrows. ♡

Gentle Connection Questions

- What are some ways people can communicate besides talking?
- How can we show respect when we don't understand something yet?
- What are some ways we can include others at school, in our community, and with our friends?
- What can we do if we see someone being left out?
- What makes someone a good sibling or friend?
- How can we keep learning and growing even when something feels hard?
- What is one thing you can do to make someone feel seen and included?



Kind People
Brighter Days