

I Am You: A book about Ubuntu

Discussion Guide

Grades Pre-K – 3rd

Before Reading: to activate schema, build background knowledge, and set a purpose.

- Preview the author's note on the first page with students. Use this opportunity to discuss the meaning of Ubuntu. Simplify the definition of Ubuntu for the child. You might say, "Ubuntu is a belief from Africa that teaches us 'I am because we are.' It means we're all connected and need each other to be happy and healthy."
- Ask: What does it mean to be kind to someone? How do you feel when someone helps you?

During Reading: to engage students, check for understanding, and make connections.

- What are some ways the characters show kindness?
- How do the actions of one character affect others in the story? Can you give an example from the book?
- What does "Ubuntu" mean in the story? Can you think of a time when you've seen or experienced Ubuntu in your own life?

After Reading: to summarize, question, and reflect.

- Ask: Think about people in your own life who embody the spirit of Ubuntu.
- Have students reflect on individuals in their family, school, or community who live by the principles of Ubuntu. Use chart paper to brainstorm answers to these questions: How do these individuals show care and connection to others? How can you show appreciation for them?
- Following the theme of connectivity and mutual respect in the story, have students write a thank you note or create a thank you card for someone they appreciate. For younger students, include the option to draw a picture that expresses their gratitude.

If your students enjoyed this book...

- Encourage them to continue to discuss it and refer to it in other lessons and conversations.
- Let them explore more about the topic by reading other books with similar themes, structure, characters, or content.