



Different types of family

Patrice says that one of the themes in *People Like Stars* is different types of family. The three main characters, Sen, Stanley and Ayrton – each have different kinds of families.

Talk about the characters and their families. Who is in each family? What are the children's relationships with the parent/s in their families? Who helps who, who knows things and who doesn't know things in the families? What changes from the start of the book to the end? How does the ending of the story make the children in your class feel? Perhaps this conversation will create an opportunity for the children to talk about their own families.

Books can change the world

Patrice says she believes that books can change the world.

Talk with the children about a book or something else you have read that changed the way you think, that taught you something new, or that shattered a stereotype. You could bring the book in to show them. Read a bit aloud to the children. How did it change you?

Is there a book the children have read that made them think about something differently? They could ask adults in the school to share their important books with them.

In the school library or your book area, gather books that challenge and make us think. Check the diversity of authors, illustrators, characters and stories on the bookshelves around the school – invite the children to help you with this, and to choose books that can help us change the world.

Activities for

People Like Stars

By Patrice Lawrence

Create a character

Patrice uses her lived experience and what she notices about people to help her create her characters – she says she loves to know how other people work, what makes them tick and why they do what they do, and she's a bit nosy!

Invite the children to create their own character – think about what they notice about other people and about themselves to help them. Write prompts – on small bits of paper or on the whiteboard – read them aloud. In their talking partners, discuss their ideas for a character. How old are they? What do they look like? What's their favourite food/colour/music/activity? What's their type of family and what is their heritage? What's their talent or strength? Where do they live? How do they travel? How are they feeling? Provide paper and pens for sketching their character.

Sen, Stanley and Ayrton

Take a deep dive into the three main characters from the book. Children could do this in talking partners or small groups. Randomly assign each talking partnership/small group one of the three characters. Prepare some character questions/tasks, for example - describe your character in 3 words; what does their family look like?; what is their story?; how does their character feel at the beginning of the book?; how do they feel at the end of the book?

After each question/task, share their thoughts with the class. If different partners/groups had the same main character, how do they compare? Why do the children think Patrice called the book *People Like Stars*?

Shattering stereotypes

Patrice and Laura talk about how books are important in shattering stereotypes. Talk with the children about the word 'stereotype'. What does it mean? Discuss examples of stereotypes and why they are harmful – Patrice and Laura talk about some stereotypes in their conversation. What stereotypes might we have without even realising it? What do Patrice and Laura mean by 'shattering' stereotypes. Think about the book *People Like Stars* - what stereotypes is it shattering? How do the children feel when they see themselves in a character in a book? Give time for the children to share their thoughts and feelings.