Acceptance!

Read Aloud Lesson based on the book

The Proudest Blue by Ibtihaj Muhammad

The Proudest Blue tells a story with which many young people are very familiar. First, there is the excitement we all feel when we approach the first day of school. Second, many of us are eager to share who we are as we meet our new classmates for the first time. Third, some of us, although very proud of who we are, face bullying simply because of who we are. In this story, Ibtihaj Muhammed, Olympic gold medalist and social activist, tells the story of being strong and of being proud of who you are.

Read or listen to the story (you can find this book as a read aloud on YOUTUBE) and then think about and/or discuss the questions below.

1. The Hijah is a scarf that symbolizes that the person wearing it is strong. According to the story, Muslim girls start to wear their Hijah when they reach the age of a sixth grader. Asiya is wearing her Hijah for the first time on her first day of sixth grade. Some children make fun of Asiya because she is wearing her Hijah. They tease her and laugh at her. If you were walking with Asiya on the school yard the first day of school, what would you say to the children who were making fun of Asiya for wearing a Hijah? Can you think of an activity Asiya’s classmates could do to help them learn about and accept all the unique characteristics of the students in their class?

2. In the story, Asiya’s mom says if you understand who you are, others will understand you too. Take some time to think about who you are. Then draw a self-portrait and label it with at least five adjectives that describe who you are.

3. If you could choose one thing to wear that would let your classmates know more about you, what would that be? For example, I like to bead so I would wear a necklace I made on my first day of school.

4. Ibtihaj Muhammad is an Olympic medal-winning athlete. Her sport is fencing. She was the first woman athlete to wear a Hijah while competing in the Olympics. Imagine that you were the first to do something special. What would you like to be the first to do and why?

*Take some more time to learn about the author, Ibtihaj Muhammad.*