



Commissioner's Book Club: Julián is a Mermaid

Discussion guide

By Jessica Love

Art can help make things better in society. It can do this in many ways. One way is by showing people what's unfair in the world. Art can also help people understand each other better. When we read a story about someone's life, we can imagine what it's like to be them. Art can also be a way for people to stand up for what's right and to feel like we all belong.

We hope that both adults and children will engage with these books, and that caregivers find the discussion questions useful in initiating conversations with the young people in their lives.

- ★ If you could dress up as anything, what would it be? Why?
- ★ What do you think Julián felt when he saw the mermaids on the subway?
- ★ Have you ever been nervous about showing someone something important to you? What happened?
- ★ Where does Julián's grandmother take him at the end of the book? Why do you think she did that?
- ★ What kind of parade would you want to go to? What is special about parades?
- ★ What are some fun ways your friends or family have shown love and kindness to you?
- ★ What are some ways we can make sure our friends feel safe and happy being themselves?