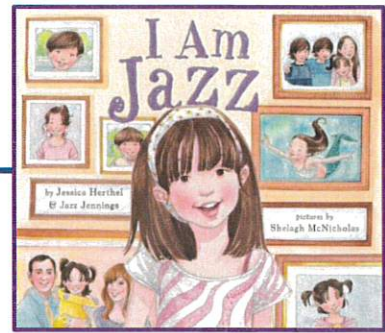


I AM JAZZ

COMMUNITY DISCUSSION GUIDE

Authors: Jessica Herthel (she/her) & Jazz Jennings (she/her)
Illustrator: Shelagh McNicholas (she/her)



About the Author

Jazz began her activism at age six when she appeared on 20/20 with Barbara Walters. She now stars in TLC's docu-series, "I am Jazz" and is one of America's most well-known transgender youth. Jazz is an HRC Youth Ambassador, a program amplifying the voices of LGBTQ+ youth leaders. She is the co-author of the children's book, *I am Jazz*, and released her memoir, *Being Jazz* in 2016.

About the Book

From the time she was two years old, Jazz knew that she was a girl, even though she had been assigned as a boy when she was born. She loved pink and dressing up as a mermaid and didn't feel like herself in boys' clothing. This confused her family, until they took her to a doctor who said that Jazz was transgender and that she was born that way. Jazz's story is based on her real-life experience and she tells it in a simple, clear way that will be appreciated by picture book readers, their parents, and teachers.



Questions

- + Jazz says that her favorite colors are pink, silver and green. What are your favorite colors?
- + What are some things you have in common with Jazz? What are some things that are different?
- + In the book, Jazz says that she is transgender. What does transgender mean to Jazz?
- + What are some things that Jazz does to show the world that she is a girl?
- + If you knew Jazz, what could you do to help her feel safe and welcomed?



Illustration from *I Am Jazz* by Jessica Herthel & Jazz Jennings with illustrations by Shelagh McNicholas.

Activities

- + List some of the things you do to show the world who you are inside. Include activities and things you like to wear.
- + Make a T-chart called Welcoming Schools: On one side, list some things that adults in your school could do to make a transgender student feel safe, welcomed and affirmed. On the other side, list some things students could do to make a transgender classmate feel safe, welcomed and affirmed.
- + Write a letter to Jazz telling her about the things you like and do.

Want a more in-depth learning opportunity?

Welcoming Schools has gender lesson plans, including the [I Am Jazz Lesson Plan](#) available for download at WelcomingSchools.org.