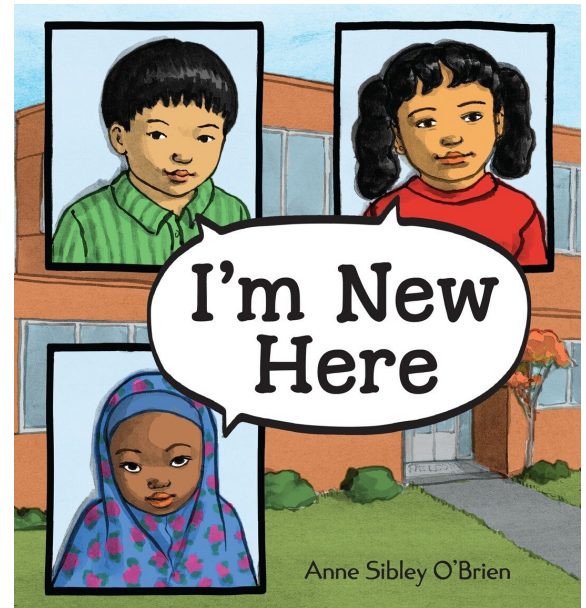




I'M NEW HERE

ANNE SIBLEY O'BRIEN

This book shows the perspective of three children who are new to America and the struggles they face in a new country at a new school. Not knowing the language, not having friends, and being immersed in a new culture that they can't always relate to right away. As time goes on, can these new kids find their feet? Can they do it alone, or do they need friends to help show them the way?



Questions:

1. Have you ever moved to a new place and been the new kid in school? Is it easy to belong and make new friends? Was that just at a new school, or was it in a new country?
2. How would you feel if you moved to a new country where the language, culture, and everything else was different to where you came from? Would it be easy to join in with everyone and make a lot of friends?
3. Is it easy to make friends when you can't speak the same language? If there is someone who is new and doesn't speak the language, how can you help them feel included?
4. What would it feel like if even the letters on the page were different? How confusing would it be to look at a book and see unfamiliar symbols?
5. How would it feel to live in a place where almost every part of daily life was different? Would it be hard to fit in and do the things other people see as normal even if they're not normal for you?
6. Are alone, sad, and confused good feelings? If you see someone who feels like that how can you help?
7. Once you speak the same language, is it easier to make friends? How can you help someone to be included even if they don't speak much of the language?
8. Was the boy who helped him spell being kind? Is that the sort of thing you could do for someone who was new or just someone who needed help? Did he learn something cool in return?
9. She feels shy about sharing her work. If you see someone is shy about sharing should you laugh or tease them? Or should you give them a compliment or even just a smile? How would they feel if you laughed? How would they feel if you smiled at them?
10. Can the new kids fit in? Yes! Did they fit in all by themselves or did others have to be kind and include them so that they could find a place to fit?