



JULIAN IS A MERMAID

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Julian goes everywhere with his abuela. He goes to her swimming class and swims under the feet of her classmates. They take the train together. They live together. One day after swimming, Julian and his abuela see a group of mermaids on the train. Julian suddenly realizes- he is a mermaid too! But what will abuela think?

Questions:

1. Have you ever read a book with very few words before? Is it easy to tell how people feel only by looking at the pictures?
2. Does Julian like swimming? Do you?
3. How does Julian feel when he sees the mermaids? How would you feel if you saw a group of adults dressed as mermaids?
4. When all the water comes rushing into the train car, is that real or is that Julian's imagination? Have you ever imagined something like that?
5. What changes about Julian when he becomes a mermaid in his imagination? Does he seem happy about the changes?
6. When he meets the giant blue fish, what is it giving him? How do you think he feels getting a gift like that, even if he is imagining it?
7. Has anyone ever interrupted a really nice daydream you were having before? How did it feel to get pulled out of your imagination?
8. How do you think Julian's abuela feels when he tells her he's a mermaid? How do you think Julian feels before he tells her? Does he know how she will feel?
9. How do you think Julian feels when he makes his mermaid outfit? How do you think he feels when he looks in the mirror and sees a mermaid? How do you think he feels when his abuela catches him?
10. After his abuela walks away, how do you think Julian's feelings have changed when he looks in the mirror from now and from earlier when he first put the costume on? Is he happy both times? Sad both times? Have his feelings changed because he's changed, or because how others see him has changed?
11. How do you think Julian feels when his grandmother gives him the necklace? Look at the pattern on her dress- it's the same as the fish who gave him a necklace in his daydream! Is the gift really just a necklace, or does the necklace mean something more? How does it feel to be accepted as you are instead of being asked to change?
12. How does Julian feel when he sees the parade? When he gets to join?
13. How does Julian feel now when he goes to swimming class? Is that good?

