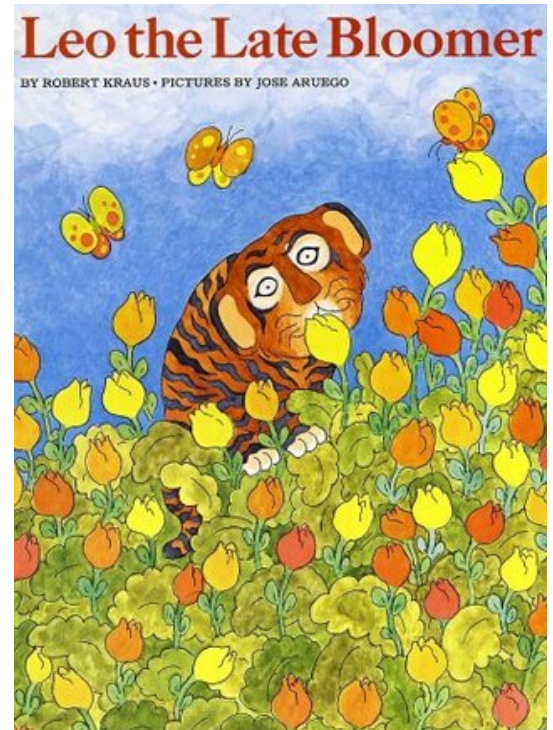




LEO THE LATE BLOOMER

ROBERT KRAUS

Leo is a late bloomer! He's always a little behind his friends and can't do a lot of the things that they can do. He doesn't feel good about it, and feels even worse when his father becomes very worried and follows him around, watching him for signs of learning to do things. Will Leo bloom?



Questions:

1. Look at Leo's face. How does he feel when he can't read but everyone else can?
2. Has there ever been a time where everyone else seemed to be able to do something or to understand something and you just couldn't? How did you feel? Was that feeling only about how you felt on your own, but did what other people thought of you make it worse? (Good feeling words: frustrated, embarrassed, shy, sad, angry, etc.)
3. If Leo overheard his father asking what's wrong with him, how do you think that would make him feel? When we are talking about people, should we make sure it is always kind? His dad was worried, but should he have made sure that Leo couldn't hear him?
4. Does Leo's father watching him help him to grow and bloom? What should he do instead? What does "a watched bloomer doesn't bloom" mean? Do you think that's true?
5. Is it okay to be a late bloomer? Is it okay to learn to do things in your own time?
6. If someone is having a hard time, should you put pressure on them to get it right, or just gently help them to try again? What's something you can say to help them feel better when they are frustrated? What should you tell yourself when you are having a hard time? YOU'VE GOT THIS!