

READ★PRAY★WONDER★PLAY

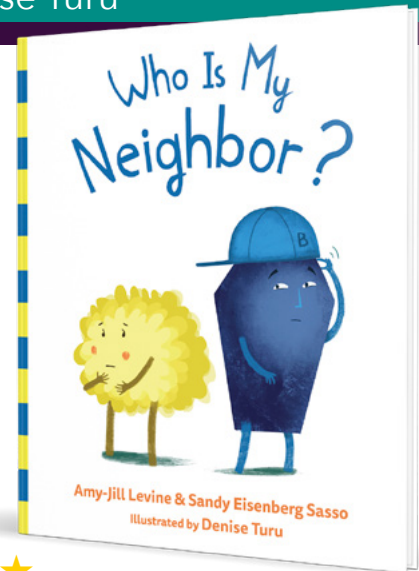
A GUIDE TO SHARING STORIES WITH CHILDREN

Who Is My Neighbor?

By Amy-Jill Levine, Sandy Eisenberg Sasso, & Denise Turu

Before reading this story with your child, read “A Note for Parents and Educators” found at the back of the book, which tells more about this story’s origins as the Good Samaritan parable.

Before beginning the story, take time to look at the cover. Point out that the title is a question and ask your child how they would answer that question. Notice the two characters on the front cover, including their colors, facial expressions, and body language. Make a prediction as to the relationship between the two characters based on the illustrations on the cover.



★ ★ WONDER TOGETHER ★ ★

- What emotions do you think Midnight Blue felt when he fell?
- Lemon was brave when she stopped to help Midnight Blue. How do you think you would react in this situation?
- A parable is a story that helps teach lessons about real life. What connections could you make between this story and your life?
- *With Younger Children:* Each character shared a special treat from their community with their new friend. What is a treat in your favorite color that you would share with a friend?
- *With Older Children:* Is there one thing you can imagine that might look different if we were to visit one of these towns a week after Midnight Blue and Lemon met? What do you think might have changed?

★ ★ EXPLORE THE STORY ★ ★

- Point out the creative language around color in the story and how the authors found clever and fun color connections. Come up with some descriptions you might use if you were to create a town centered around your favorite color.
- *With Younger Children:* In the illustrations, notice the different items of each color that go along with blues and yellows. Based on the items used to describe each town, where would you rather live? Why?
- *With Older Children:* The story describes blues as “the coolest colors” and yellows as “the hottest colors.” Although these descriptions are opposites, both are good. Did you identify with one of the colors more than the other in this story? Which one? Why?

PRAY

Loving God, you created us to live in community. We’re thankful for the people in our life who are similar to us and also for people who are different from us. Help us to always be curious, friendly, and kind so that we can be good neighbors to all. Amen.



THE
PC(USA)
STORE

DISCOVER MORE

www.pcusastore.com/FlyawayBooksGuides

★ ★ DIG DEEPER ★ ★

The story of the Good Samaritan is so popular and widely understood that now it simply means, as the note in the back of this book says, “someone who stops to help.” In a social climate where divisions around race, culture, and politics can often contribute to an “us versus them” mentality, the truth and goodness of this story feels even more important as a model to lift up to our children to emulate.

Allow your child’s observations to guide your conversations on this story, and depending on their age and interest, consider exploring some of the ideas below:

- Find this story (Luke 10:30-37) in a children’s Bible. Read and compare the story with this book and discuss your observations.
- Search online for different uses of the phrase “Good Samaritan” (some uses might include references to laws, news or human-interest stories, and websites for organizations). Talk about why you think the phrase was used in the instances that you found online.
- Pledge as a family to get to know a new neighbor. Depending on your context you may take this in the more common, literal way by getting to know others who live near you, or you may interpret the word more widely, as Jesus did.
- Consider creating blessing bags to keep in your car to give to people that you see in need. Include things such as clean socks, long-life snacks such as dried fruit or protein bars, a bottle of water, adhesive bandages, wet cleansing cloths, and so forth.

MORE TO READ & DO

CLICK THE LINKS BELOW TO LEARN MORE

ADDITIONAL DOWNLOADABLE RESOURCE FOR *WHO IS MY NEIGHBOR?*

- Download the [coloring sheet](#)

ADDITIONAL BOOKS BY AMY-JILL LEVINE AND SANDY EISENBERG SASSO

- *Who Counts? 100 Sheep, 10 Coins, and 2 Sons* - Available in [English](#), [Spanish](#), and [Korean](#)
- [100 Sheep: A Counting Parable](#)
- *The Marvelous Mustard Seed* - Available in [English](#), [Spanish](#), and [Korean](#)
- [The Good For Nothing Tree](#)
- [A Very Big Problem](#)

Guide written by Becky D’Angelo-Veitch and created in partnership with PC(USA)’s initiative “[Around the Table](#)” (pcusa.org/aroundthetable).



THE
PC(USA)
STORE

DISCOVER MORE

www.pcusastore.com/FlyawayBooksGuides