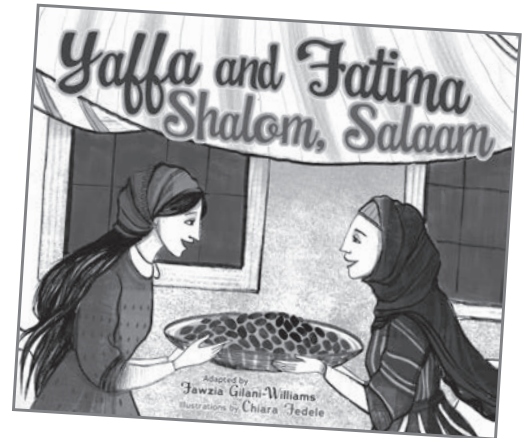


Acceptance and Friendship

Discuss with students what it means to accept our friends for who they are.

What You Need

- ☐ *Yaffa and Fatima: Shalom, Salaam* by Fawzia Gilani-Williams
- ☐ Dry-erase board and markers
- ☐ My Friend worksheet for each student (p. 120)
- ☐ Writing supplies for students



Learning Goals

- Understand what it looks like to accept someone who is different from us
- Think of ways we show acceptance to our own friends

Key Questions

- What does it mean to accept someone?
- What does it look like to show acceptance and friendship?
- How do I show acceptance to my friend?

Talk about It

Tell students you are going to read a story about friendship and acceptance. *Accepting someone means appreciating them as they are and not asking them to change.*

Read aloud *Yaffa and Fatima: Shalom, Salaam* by Fawzia Gilani-Williams.

Think about It

Ask students to name some of the ways Yaffa and Fatima were different. List their thoughts on the dry-erase board.

- They made different types of food (shawarma and schnitzel)
- They prayed in different places (synagogue and mosque)
- They read different holy books (Siddur and Qur'an)

- They observed different holidays (Yom Kippur/Passover and Ramadan/Eid)
- They had different ways of saying “Peace!” (Shalom/Salaam)

Ask students to share some examples of Yaffa and Fatima showing friendship and accepting each other. List their thoughts on the dry-erase board.

- They had meals together
- They greeted one another by waving and saying “Peace” in different languages
- They showed concern that the other had enough to eat
- They gave each other the food they had, even when neither had much to give
- They showed love and gratitude for the other’s generosity

Try It

Ask students to reflect on how they show acceptance in their own friendships.

1. Give each student a copy of the My Friend worksheet.
2. Have students think about a good friend of theirs. Ask them to share a bit about their friendship by filling in the worksheet.
3. When students have completed their worksheets, invite them to share with the class what they shared on the worksheet.





Notes

Helpful Resources

One Nation, Many Beliefs

www.learningforjustice.org/classroom-resources/lessons/one-nation-many-beliefs

Celebrating Differences: Five Lessons for Teaching Kids Acceptance

www.poehealth.org/celebrating-differences/



My Friend

Think about a good friend of yours.
Share a bit about your friendship below!



My name: _____

My friend's name: _____

Some ways my friend and I are different:

Some things I appreciate about my friend:

How I show my friend that I appreciate them:

