



Reading Roundup



Boundless Grace

Written by Mary Hoffman

Illustrated by Caroline Binch

Reading Roundup
Partners



Introduction

Gather the students around you so that they are able to see the illustrations of the book. Most classrooms will have an area rug defining this space. Introduce yourself and tell the students that you are excited to share Boundless Grace, written by Mary Hoffman and illustrated by Caroline Binch.

Before Reading

Boundless Grace is a sequel, the next book written by Mary Hoffman after writing Amazing Grace, one of our Reading Roundup selections. The book continues the story of creative, determined, and enthusiastic Grace, who is invited to visit her father and his family in Africa. Imagine how it must feel for Grace to travel so far away to meet her father's family. How will she fit in? Will the family love Grace? Let's read together and think about what makes a real family.

During Reading

- Begin reading the book by starting on the title page. Hold the book so that students are able to see the illustrations. Give plenty of time for students to “read” and think about the pictures. Continue to read through **page 8**.

- **Page 8 – P** – *Nana holds Grace and tells her, “A family with you in it is a real family.” She explains, “Families are what you make them.” I wonder what Nana was really saying here. What did she need Grace to understand?* (A family is a group of people who love one another, even if they don't live in the same place.)

- **Page 10– T/T** – *Grace is too worried about her father's family to even notice all the strange noises and sights around her. Grace has strong feelings about meeting the family. What does Grace ask herself to help us understand her feelings?* (“I wonder if Papa will still love me? He has other children now....”)

- **Page 16 – P** – *Until this point in the story, Grace has felt unloved by the family. Slowly Grace's feelings are beginning to change. What does Grace do and say that tell us her feelings are changing?* (Papa offers to tell Grace a story about how much he loves her. He explains to her how important she and Jatou, his new wife, are to him. Grace promises to try to be nice to her.)

- **Page 22 – P** – *Grace makes a connection with many of the bedtime stories she tells her brother and sister. Why is Grace able to understand how the characters feel in the stories she tells?* (Grace thought a lot about whether her father loved her. She wondered how her father could move so far away from her. Grace wondered how Ma would feel if she loved two families.)

- **Page 28 – T/T** – *Look closely at the illustration. Notice Grace holding both Papa's and Nana's hands. How does the illustration help tell the story? How does Grace feel about leaving Papa? How does she feel about going with Nana?* (The illustration tells us that Grace is struggling with different strong feelings. She loves Papa and wants to stay with him. She also wants to go back home to be with Ma, whom she also loves.)

After Reading

In this wonderful book, author Mary Hoffman repeats Nana's words, “Families are what you make them?” Think to yourself about that. At the end of this book, Grace hadn't finished making her family what she wanted it to be. I wonder where the next book about Grace will take us.

Remember, many things may happen that are scary and make us feel unsure of where we fit in – just like Grace. It's okay to feel scared. When you feel scared, for any reason, tell someone about it. You can tell a family member, a good friend, or your teacher. Just tell someone.

Vocabulary

cross – mad, p. 14

Benachin – African dish, p. 15

stall – a small room, p. 20

compound – village, pp. 24, 28

holy – spiritual, blessed, p. 26



**WORD
WAGON**