

Reading Roundup

I Am Human

Written by Susan Verde
Illustrated by Peter H. Reynolds



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 I Am Human, A Book of Empathy, written by Susan Verde and illustrated by Peter H. Reynolds.

Before Reading

One thing a reader often does is stop and think about the cover of a book. The book cover always gives the reader a hint about what's to come. Every now and then, a cover grabs the reader's attention. The cover of I Am Human is that way for me. Take a close look at the illustration. - P - What do you notice about the person holding out his arms? (His eyes are closed as though he may be having a happy thought. There's a circle with a lot of different people in it. He feels happy and safe to be with these people.) Listen as I read the words in the title, I Am Human, A Book of Empathy. - T/T - Think about what it means to be human. Turn to someone and talk about what we mean when we say, "I am human." (A human is a person. Sometimes we use the word to mean we're not perfect; I'm only human.) As we read the illustrations and the words of this book, think about the word "empathy." Think about why the author would use this word to describe the book.

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 13.

- **Page 13 -P-** *The author and illustrator work together to tell us what it's like to be human. What are some of the words the author uses to help the reader understand that being human is wonderful and exciting?* (The author writes that the boy is always learning, is on an incredible journey, has big dreams, and is curious. He is unique. Out of billions of humans, there's no one else exactly like him.) Continue reading through page 21.

- **Page 21 -T/T-** *Wait. The author and illustrator seem to be saying something different about being human. Being human isn't always wonderful and exciting. Sometimes, it's really hard. What are some of the words the author uses to help the reader understand that sometimes it's hard to be human? Turn and talk to someone.* (The author writes that the boy sometimes makes mistakes, hurts others' feelings, is frightened, or feels sad. Sometimes, other humans hurt his feelings.) Continue reading through page 28.

- **Turn back to page 19 -P-** *Humans are able to make choices when life doesn't feel right. What are some of the things we can do or say to change the way we feel or have made others feel?* (Humans can keep moving and not give up. They can do or say something kind. They can be compassionate, helpful, and fair. They can listen to others, try to understand, and ask for forgiveness.) Turn back to page 29 and continue reading through page 33.

After Reading

Turn back and reread page 5. Then, reread page 29. *I can't stop thinking about the words the author uses. She writes, "One of billions but unique! We are all connected. We are all humans together." As you have time to reflect on the message of this book, think about how every single human is different, yet every single human is the same.* **-T/T-** *Think about the word "empathy" and why the author would title her book, I Am Human, A Book of Empathy. Turn and talk to someone about what "empathy" might mean.* (Accept all answers. If needed, provide a simple definition.)

Remember – As humans we can dream big dreams, learn new things, and find joy in friendships. We can also be frightened by scary or new things, hurt the feelings of others, and feel sad when others hurt us. A wonderful thing about being human - when life doesn't feel right, we can make choices and change what we do and say to make life better again.

Vocabulary

Unique – different, pp. 5, 29

Compassion – kindness from understanding, p. 24

Common ground – agreement, p. 26

Empathy – true understanding, p. front cover

**WORD
WAGON**

