



# Reading Roundup

## Just Ask!

Written by Sonia Sotomayor  
Illustrated by Rafael Lopez



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 *Just Ask!*, written by Sonia Sotomayor and illustrated by Rafael Lopez.

### Before Reading

*The author of Just Ask! is Sonia Sotomayor, who serves on the United States Supreme Court. Justice Sotomayor shares information about herself as a young child who has diabetes. She needs to take shots every day to make sure her body uses sugar the right right way. All of the children described in the book are different, but they all have one thing in common. They all love to ask questions so they can understand each other better.*

## 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 15.

- **Page 15** - *Madison and Arturo are blind, but they use their other senses to help in the garden.* -T/T- *Think about what it would be like to be blind. Turn and talk to someone about which of the other senses you would use most – touch, smell, hearing, or tasting – if you couldn't use your eyes to see. Why would you use that sense the most if you were blind?* (Answers will vary.)

- **Page 19** – *Bianca has dyslexia. Reading and writing are hard for her, but she's very good at art.* -T/T- *Are you really good at something? Turn and talk about what you are really good at doing.* (Answers will vary.)

- **Page 25** – *Sometimes, Julia feels frustrated because her body wiggles, and she makes sounds she can't control. I get frustrated at times. I bet you get frustrated sometimes, too.* -P - *What frustrates you?* (Answers will vary.)

- **Page 31** – *Grace has a hard time learning new things.* -T/T- *When you try to learn something new, what helps you? Turn and talk to someone about what makes learning easier for you.* (Possible answers might be working with a friend, asking my teacher, talking about what I don't understand, learning a little bit at a time, using more than one of my senses....)

## After Reading

- *Justice Sotomayor understands what it's like to have an illness that makes life hard. She introduced us to a lot of children who have many different struggles. Instead of focusing on what each child can't do, she suggests we think about what each child can do. She writes, "... each of us has unique powers to share with the world and make it more interesting and richer."*

- -T/T- *Think about your unique power. What can you do to make this world more interesting and fun? Turn and talk to someone about what makes you unique.* (Encourage children to consider the power of caring for others, encouraging friends, being kind, respecting all people, making people laugh....)

- *Just Ask! has lots of questions.* -T/T- *Turn and talk to someone about a child in the book you would like to learn more about. What question(s) would you ask her/him?* (Answers will vary.)

**Remember-** – Just like plants in a garden, we are all different. That's a good thing. It's also a good thing to notice what we have in common. Instead of being afraid of our differences, we can talk about them and learn about them.  
Just Ask!

## Vocabulary

**Fragile** – breakable p. 6

**Hardy** – strong and healthy p.6

**Chatty** – talkative p. 7

**Distracted** – not paying attention p. 26

**Unique** – special p. 32



**WORD  
WAGON**