



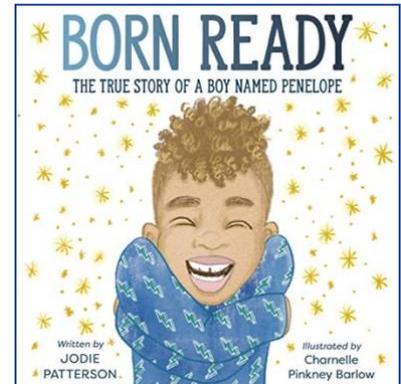
Born Ready: The True Story of a Boy Named Penelope – Lesson Prompt

Born Ready: The True Story of a Boy Named Penelope

Jodie Patterson (Author), Charnelle Pinkney Barlow (Illustrator)

Penelope knows that he's a boy. (And a ninja.) The problem is getting everyone else to realize it.

In this exuberant companion to Jodie Patterson's adult memoir, *The Bold World*, Patterson shares her son Penelope's frustrations and triumphs on his journey to share himself with the world. Penelope's experiences show children that it always makes you stronger when you are true to yourself and who you really are.



Questions

- + Penelope dreams of being a ninja. What is a ninja and what did ninjas do?
- + Everyone thinks that Penelope is a girl and treats him like a girl. How does Penelope respond to this?
- + When Penelope was born, the doctor or midwife said that he was a girl. Now that he is older, he can explain to people that he is a boy. What is a term we can use to describe people who are assigned boy/girl at birth and don't feel that way?
- + How does Penelope let people know that he is a boy? Does he change some things about himself? Are there some things that he does not change?

Activities

- + Learn more about ninjas; find out what country and culture they are from and what they really did in society. Draw pictures of what ninjas looked like and what they did.
- + Learn more about martial arts and tell another person about two types of martial arts.
- + Penelope was frustrated when people insisted that he was a girl, and this caused him to act out. Make a list of ways to calm down when you are frustrated or angry so you can communicate better with other people. How can you help someone who is frustrated?

Additional Resources from Welcoming Schools

- + [Books that Look at Gender and Support Transgender and Non-Binary Students](#)
- + [Defining LGBTQ Words for Elementary School Students](#)
- + [Be Prepared for Questions and Put-Downs Around Gender](#)
- + [Professional Development Training](#)