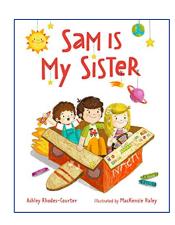
# Sam is My Sister - Lesson Prompt

## Sam is My Sister

Ashley Rhodes-Courter (Author), MacKenzie Haley (Illustrator)

Evan loves being a big brother to Sam and Finn. They do everything together go fishing, climb trees, and play astronauts. But lately, Evan notices that he and Sam don't look like brothers anymore. Sam wants to have long hair, and even asks to wear a dress on the first day of school.

As time goes by, Evan comes to understand why Sam wants to look like a girl because Sam is a girl. Sam is transgender. And just like always, Sam loves to dream with Evan and Finn about going to the moon together. Based on one family's real-life experiences, this heartwarming story of a girl named Sam and the brothers who love and support her will resonate with readers everywhere.



#### Questions

- What kinds of things do Evan, Sam and Finn like to do to have fun together?
- What does Sam want to change about herself in order to be true to who she is on the inside? How does it make her feel to be understood and allowed to like what she likes?
- + How do Evan and Finn respond to these changes?
- + How do the children at school respond to the changes Sam makes? How does it make Sam feel when other children tease her? How does Evan help out (be an ally)?
- Sam's family understands that Sam is transgender. What does the word transgender mean?

#### **Activities**

- Draw pictures of things that are sometimes considered "girl things" or "boy things". Explain why all children can like all things, no matter what kind of toy or activity.
- Write a letter to Sam supporting her in being true to herself.
- Sam and her brothers like to pretend that they are astronauts. Learn more about what astronauts
  do. Find out about one active astronaut and one former astronaut.

Astronauts Answer Student Questions

Working In Space

NASA Astronauts Homepage

### **Additional Resources from Welcoming Schools**

- Defining LGBTQ Words for Elementary School Students
- Be Prepared for Questions and Put-Downs Around Gender
- Professional Development Training