

***Just Ask!: Be Different, Be Brave, Be You* by Sonia Sotomayor, illustrated by Rafael López**

This delightful picture book written by Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor encourages kids examine their own strengths and ask questions about differences. She notes that some children may not want to talk about the things that make them different, but others may welcome discussion. This book offers a great jumping off point for kids to talk with their parents about things like ADHD, children using wheelchairs, juvenile diabetes, and more. Sotomayor points out that if everyone was exactly the same, it would be like a garden where you could only grow one type of vegetable – which wouldn't be very fun. Each person brings something unique to the table and differences are to be celebrated.

The illustrations by Rafael López are colorful and inviting. The garden the children are planting is full of birds and flowers and insects, and I feel like López's distinctive art style is the perfect choice for this book. I enjoyed that the children in the book are a diverse group so that young readers can find someone to identify with. It's lovely that this book is so inclusive! A wonderful book with a fantastic, upbeat message.

GK