### **GUIDE FOR PRINTING CARDS**

Hi there, here are a few words to get your ready for your first game of Sign. Before getting ready to play, make sure you've read through the Teacher's booklet so you know how the game will play.

We recommend using a slightly thicker card-stock while printing these cards so they can stand rigid while players are interacting with them.

### **CHARACTER CARDS**

The first group of cards here are **Character Cards**. Make sure you print all of them so your group has ample characters to chose from before starting the game.

Below is an example card. If you're running low on ink, you can avoid printing the design on the back

#### H. Barrioz

FREE SPIRIT, ZANY, GULLIBLE

Others struggle to describe you. If you could pick a phrase, "other-wordly" might do. Wide-eyed and dreamy, you always seem abuzz with thoughts and emotions, even if you've never been able to express them fully.

You've lived with your aunt since your mother's passing, but she still doesn't quite know what to do with you. However, she has found some use in having you watch after your cousin, Roberto. While babysitting, you make up games to play, do little dances, and get the both of you lost in make-believe worlds of faraway lands and magical beasts. Your happiest moments are looking through Roberto's picture books. Colorful unicorns, fierce dragons—these fantastic creatures just make your imagination run wild with possibility! It seems your next adventure is going to be far away with lots of new faces.

They do know about dragons, right?

#### TRUTH -

I want to be a children's book author someday.

#### - RELATIONSHIP GOALS -

I want to dance with someone.

I want to tell someone about my favorite book.

#### **CLASS CARDS**

This document contains six sets of class cards so you can play with a full crew of six Students. However, if you only have three or less, feel free to only print out half of the cards. On the next few pages we'll provide you the text of each card so you can see them all in one place.

### FIRST CLASS

## NAMES

As the first class begins, you feel something special. The other children and you. You share something important. Without language, they've felt the same isolation. Even more than your family, they may be the first ones who can truly appreciate who you are. If only they understood anything you have to say. The first day begins with introductions.

On your turn, create a sign to be your name and show it to the class. This act is an important one—you already have the name your parents gave you, but it's not one you'll use here. Your classmates, one by one, will then repeat your name.

Next, silently introduce yourself to the class as you would on the first day of school. As others are introducing themselves, mentally fill in the Relationship Goals on your Character Card with specific Students.

So little to go on, but so much to hope for.

### FIRST RECESS

## REACTIONS

Recess arrives and with it comes the first opportunity to interact with the other kids in the schoolyard. A time to make new friends and a time to play.

This is your time; do with it what you will.

Try to have a conversation with every other student. Let your Relationship Goals guide you. Get to know them and make small talk. Play together.

Remember to mark Compromises. Many of your attempts at communication may fail, but that's okay.

While you explore the schoolyard, your teacher will be watching and will let you know when it is time to return.

### **SECOND CLASS**

## **TOOLS**

Your second class is about tools. It's a step toward control and sharing something more together.

At the start of class, take turns signing your names. The other students, one by one, will then repeat your name. Take turns.

Pick a Word Card from the choices your teacher has presented. You'll be defining a new sign for this word, so make it meaningful to you.

Once everyone has selected a card, take turns introducing your words. On your turn, hold out your card so others can see it. Then, introduce a new sign for it. One at a time, each student will repeat your sign. Remember to tie your new sign to your world.

You collectively own all the language you've defined. The words you have aren't totally under your control, but they're all you've got. Make them count.

### **CLASS CARDS (CONTINUED)**

### **SECOND RECESS**

## BONDS

At once you're excited and scared, there's still so much unknown for you here. During this recess, try to talk to all the other students

When it feels natural, steer the conversation toward your Truth. Remember the words you've defined together and grow from there.

You still don't have all the language you need, but don't be discouraged. Mark it as a Compromise and continue on.

### THIRD CLASS

## CONTROL

Now is the time to take control of your language.

Repeat the process from the second class, except this time write a word of your own. Pick a word that helps express your Truth and that can bridge some Compromises you've made along the way.

**Start the class by signing your name.** The other students will repeat it one after another. Take turns.

#### Write down a new word to introduce to the class.

Once all students have finished writing, take turns sharing your word. On your turn, like in the previous class, hold out your word and introduce a new sign for it. Everyone will repeat your sign one by one.

### THIRD RECESS

## HOPE

Together you now own more language than you've ever had. This is your moment to use it.

In your last recess, sign your Truth as plainly as you can or want, to whomever you trust with it. Try to learn something important about each of the other students.

Say all you need to say.

### **CLASS CARDS (CONTINUED)**

### **WORD CARDS**

Word cards are used during the Second Class. They should all be printed out before play.

### **FINAL CLASS**

## FRIENDS

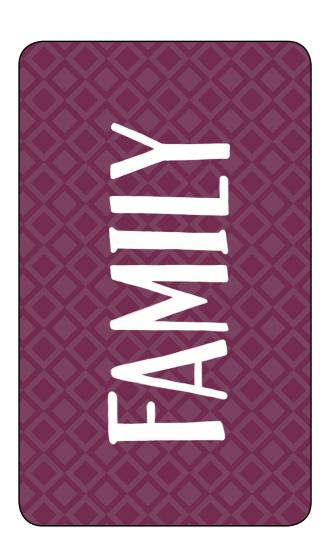
For the final class, look back on how far you've come in your journey of being understood. Begin the class by signing your names.

In this class, each Student will take a turn being in the spotlight. One by one, the others will do two things while a Student is in the spotlight:

Describe your classmate in the spotlight.

Explain how they make you feel.

After each Student has had a turn in the spotlight, face the Teacher.



## **CHARACTER CARDS FRONT - 1**

### H. Barrioz

FREE SPIRIT, ZANY, GULLIBLE

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You've lived with your aunt since your mother's passing, but she still doesn't quite know what to do with you. However, she has found some use in having you watch after your cousin, Roberto. While babysitting, you make up games to play, do little dances, and get the both of you lost in make-believe worlds of faraway lands and magical beasts. Your happiest moments are looking through Roberto's picture books. Colorful unicorns, fierce dragons—these fantastic creatures just make your imagination run wild with possibility! It seems your next adventure is going to be far away with lots of new faces.

They do know about dragons, right?

#### TRUTH

I want to be a children's book author someday.

#### - RELATIONSHIP GOALS

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### A. Chamorro

Rebel, Headstrong, Restless

When your parents sat you down and warned you to behave, you knew you could outlast them. You pushed and pulled against their control whenever you could. They wanted you polite and out of sight. No way was that going to happen. When things got their worst, they tried locking you in your room. You pried open the window and hid for over a day in the forest at the edge of town. It was so peaceful.

Your parents insisted you didn't understand, treating you like you were too dumb to get it. You understood perfectly. You saw what they did to your brother, Luis. You remember the fire in his eyes burning out as the years of control wore on him. You're determined that won't be you. They're sending you off, thinking that if they only had the words they could get inside your head. You'll learn how to communicate alright, but only so you can let them know what you really think.

#### TRUTH

I'm afraid one day I'll be like my parents.

#### - RELATIONSHIP GOALS -

I want to help someone be brave.

I want to break the rules with someone.

### V. Carrera

CHEERFUL, NURTURING, BRIGHT

People don't forget your smile. Seeing sparkling hope bursting forth from such a small package isn't easy to brush off, especially one that has lived as you have. Life is challenging at times, but as long as you can remember your mother's smile, you'll always find it within yourself to put on a brave face. One day, you think you could be a psychologist—helping people work through their problems and be happy.

Remembering your mother's smile is getting harder. She passed away over a year ago, and not a day goes by when you don't think of her. Her black hair that always had a flower in it, her deep laugh, her beautiful dresses. But the thing you remember most vividly is how hopeful she was for the world and for you. You can't let that hope fade away.

#### TRUTH

I'm afraid one day I will lose hope.

#### - RELATIONSHIP GOALS -

I want to comfort someone about their fear.

I want to give someone a gift.

## **CHARACTER CARDS BACK - 1**



## **CHARACTER CARDS FRONT - 2**

## B. Abaunza Leader, Confident, Sly

The other kids don't know you yet, but they will soon! Confident and outgoing to an extreme, everyone in the village knew your name and face. The instant a shop owner needed the floors mopped, the garbage taken out, or a delivery made, you seemed to materialize out of nowhere. Deals and favors are how you make your way. Your typical reward was lots of smiles and a few pieces of hard candy, but in reality you just relished being needed. You never even ate most of the sweets.

When it was time to leave, there was a big going away party. You stuffed yourself silly, and truly felt loved. That's why it was so hard to go, but you know it'll be worth it. With the right words you could organize all of the children in town, and who knows what you could all accomplish together! Maybe even open up your own shop! Naturally, you'd be the boss.

#### TRUTH

I want everyone at school to like me.

#### - RELATIONSHIP GOALS

I want to do someone a favor.

I want someone to follow me around the schoolyard.

## E. Montalván Bookish, Thoughtful, Bossy

Smart and determined, you come from a well-educated family in the capital. The only child of two professors, your earliest memories are of playing peek-a-boo with the university students, hiding in the grand hallway outside the dean's office, and doodling in your mother's philosophy textbooks. Your father, a mathematician, made great efforts to teach you arithmetic, spending an hour with you each day doing number drills. It made you so happy when you got them right.

You know your family wishes the best for you. Even though you're a little old for it, they would always watch with warm smiles as you gave imaginary impassioned lectures to your stuffed lamb, Tiko. Clearly you wanted nothing more than to follow in their footsteps. They think that this school will give you that chance. You won't let them down.

#### TRUTH

I'm afraid I'll disappoint my parents.

#### - RELATIONSHIP GOALS -

I want to teach someone something new.
I want to earn someone's respect.

## K. Perez Protective, Creative, Builder

As a toddler, it was in a sandbox. As a youngster, with blocks. And now you build with whatever scraps of material you can scrounge around the village. Making things is in your bones, and you're never as happy as when you step back from something you've created from scratch. Your crown jewel, the project you're most proud of? It's still the massive cardboard castle you built with your sister, Sofia. You both spent a whole week gathering boxes from around the town in preparation. By the end, it was enormous, with multiple sleeping rooms, a large living area, and even a drawbridge! All through the summer days, you and Sofia played in the castle. Your parents gladly brought you meals—just happy to see you two finally having fun together.

Before the cardboard castle, you and Sofia never really connected. You hope that by coming back with language, you can grow even closer.

#### TRIITH

I want to make something that will last forever.

#### - RELATIONSHIP GOALS —

I want to build something with someone. I want to learn about someone's siblings.

## **CHARACTER CARDS BACK - 2**



### **CHARACTER CARDS FRONT - 3**

## S. Meneses Timid, Protective, Emotional

If there's one thing you know, it's that people are hurtful. They scowl, wave their arms and hands, and seem to think that by repeating the same thing with faster and more violent gestures they'll get their point across. At first, you tried to please them. But now, you hide.

It was on one such occasion, walking through the village and avoiding going home, that you met a little orange tabby outside a butcher shop. The cat also seemed cast away, and followed you cautiously. You named her Mila and visited her every day. Mila laps up all the affection you give, and understands you better than anyone else. You miss her dearly, much more than your parents.

You never learned you would be sent away until the bus came. You had no chance to say goodbye.

#### TRUTH

I'm afraid Mila thinks I've left her.

#### - RELATIONSHIP GOALS

I want to trust someone with a secret. I want to find someone who also loves animals.

## L. Zelaya Strong, Focused, Big

You fit into your big brother's clothes, despite the fact that he's three years older. Tall and lanky, you find the most joy in full exertion—lifting something heavy, running at full tilt, jumping farther than you ever have before. You'll be in the Olympics one day, you just haven't decided in what event yet.

You idolize your father. The image you recall most when thinking of him is the soccer whistle under his big bristly mustache. It can be hard coordinating maneuvers without hearing his instructions, but you've figured out a set of gestures to discuss tactics. It's the closest you've ever gotten to a real conversation. Connecting with others has always been tricky, so you've fallen back to physical feats and competition. This new school seems like it might change everything, which honestly is a bit intimidating. All said though, you're not one to back away from a challenge.

#### TRUTH

I want to have a real conversation with my father.

#### RELATIONSHIP GOALS

I want to impress someone with my strength.

I want to learn a game from someone.

## R. Alegría Introverted, Caring, Resilient

Sickness has been a theme of your childhood, but it seems to have made you stronger. Your mother was often unwell and fell under the care and attention of you and your grandmother. You were tasked with cooking for your family trio from a tender age, and you quickly found that you had a knack for it. Your proudest dish was a special honey cake you made in secret for your mother's birthday. The only witnesses to your plan were the dozen parakeets your grandmother kept in a cage by the kitchen. When you brought it out, your mother and grandmother beamed with such pride.

After you learned you would be sent away you were furious, but acquiesced to your mother's wishes. You miss both of them dearly, but can't help but worry. Your grandmother was getting more frail with every passing day, and soon they both may need your help.

#### TRUTH

I'm afraid Grandmother can't take care of Mother.

#### RELATIONSHIP GOALS

I want to help someone do what they love.

I want to reassure someone.

## **CHARACTER CARDS BACK - 3**



## **CHARACTER CARDS FRONT - 4**

## C. Téllez Outgoing, Brash, Adventurous

Quite brave, a bit reckless, and an absolute magnet for trouble, you go where the action is. Your little brother Emilio was your partner-in-arms, and together, nothing was safe from your limitless curiosity. As your parents worked, you often slipped away unsupervised, traipsing through the surrounding hillsides for your next target.

Your favorite spot for mischief was the neighbor's farm. Whether it was sneaking up on the goats and seeing how high they would jump, or stealing fruit under the cover of darkness for a late-night snack, there was always something to make you feel alive.

Emilio kept watch and was the perfect sidekick for a fast escape. He was the only one who ever came close to truly understanding who you are, perhaps your first real friend. You've never been able to tell Emilio how much he means to you. Maybe soon.

#### TRUTH

I'm afraid Emilio will forget about me.

#### - RELATIONSHIP GOALS ——

I want to explore the schoolyard with someone.

I want to help someone face their fear.

### Y. Murillo

EAGER, JOKING, SWIFT

You loved your grandfather through and through, but what you remember most are his ears. He would sit you on his knee and produce coin after coin from behind those big, wonderful ears as you watched in delight and amazement. You laughed every single time, big belly laughs, far past the point of reason. It was your special ritual together. Since then, you've relished making others laugh. Without that, you may as well be invisible.

Funny faces are your specialty—those always make your mother burst into giggles, especially after a long day's work at the market. You're an only child and after so much time around adults, you have an older air about you. You never really had close friends your own age, but not for lack of trying. When you learned you'd be going to a new school, you dedicated yourself to juggling. After all, who can resist a good trick?

#### - TRUTH -

I want to be as funny as my grandfather some day.

#### - RELATIONSHIP GOALS -

I want to learn a trick from someone.

I want to make someone laugh.

#### S. de la Selva Quirky, Curious, Thorny

It's normal to be into dinosaurs. Lots of people like dinosaurs. I mean, how could you not? They're big, scaly, and roamed the Earth thousands of years ago. The first week your twin sister Rosa went off to school, she brought you back a coloring book full of them and you've been fascinated ever since. You daydream of digging up dinosaur bones that are surely buried deep under your house. Last week you convinced a reluctant Rosa to help you search for dinosaur bones in the backyard but things haven't really been the same since she started school. All of her new friends can hear, like her.

You've gotten into drawing, and aside from doodling our reptilian ancestors, you've been branching out a little. You like drawing animals and plants. People, they're harder. Hard to understand, too. Why can't people be more like dinosaurs?

#### TRUTH

I'm afraid Rosa likes her new friends more than me.

#### RELATIONSHIP GOALS

I want to talk about my daydreams.

I want to find out what makes someone else weird.

## **CHARACTER CARDS BACK - 4**



# NAMES

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On your turn, create a sign to be your name and show it to the class. This act is an important one—you already have the name your parents gave you, but it's not one you'll use here. Your classmates, one by one, will then repeat your name.

Next, silently introduce yourself to the class as you would on the first day of school. As others are introducing themselves, mentally fill in the Relationship Goals on your Character Card with specific Students.

So little to go on, but so much to hope for.

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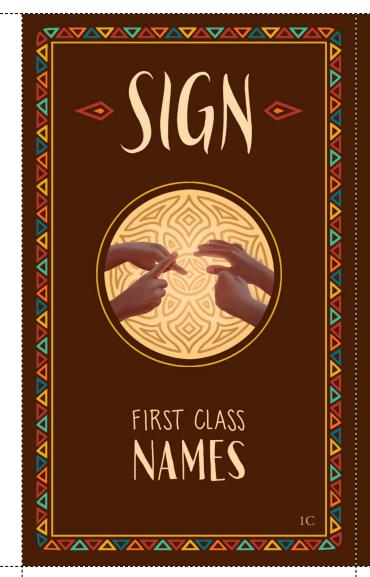
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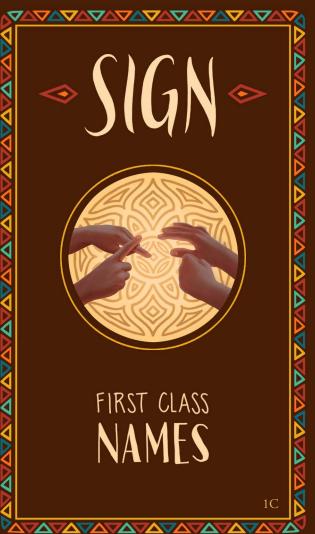
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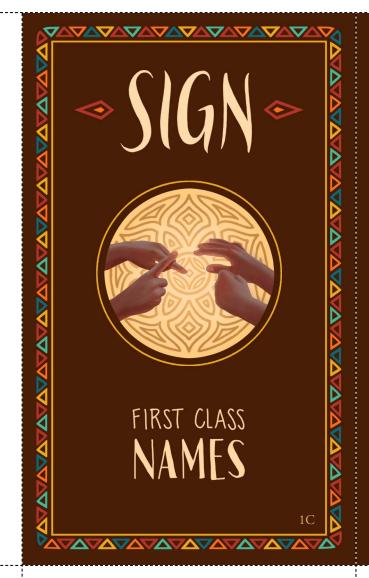
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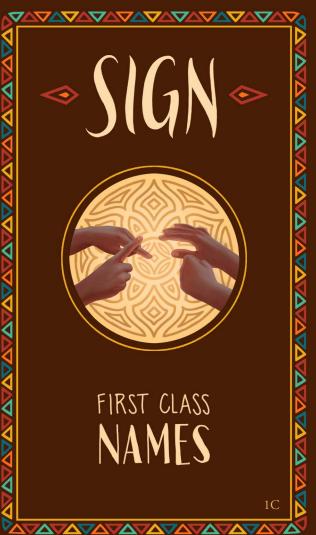
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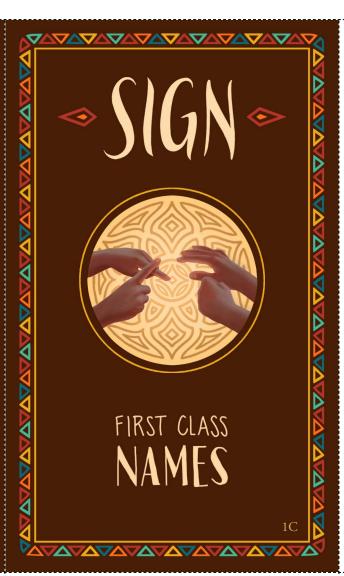
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Recess arrives and with it comes the first opportunity to interact with the other kids in the schoolyard. A time to make new friends and a time to play.

This is your time; do with it what you will.

Try to have a conversation with every other student. Let your Relationship Goals guide you. Get to know them and make small talk. Play together.

Remember to mark Compromises. Many of your attempts at communication may fail, but that's okay.

While you explore the schoolyard, your teacher will be watching and will let you know when it is time to return. Recess arrives and with it comes the first opportunity to interact with the other kids in the schoolyard. A time to make new friends and a time to play.

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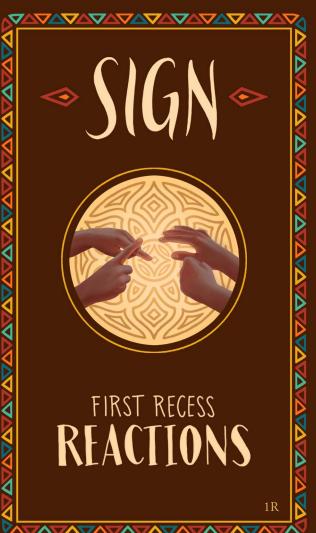
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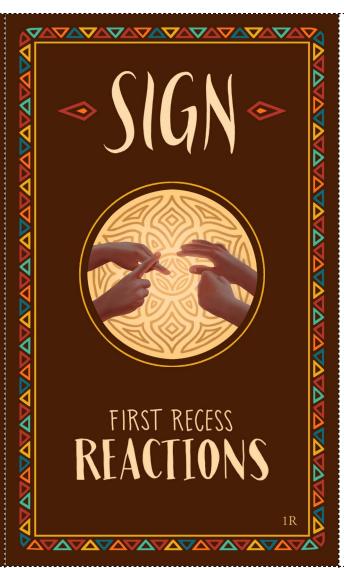
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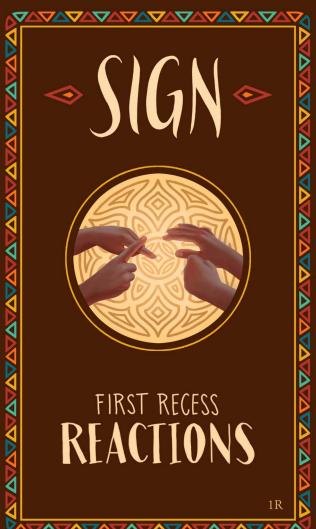
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At the start of class, take turns signing your names. The other students, one by one, will then repeat your name. Take turns.

Pick a Word Card from the choices your teacher has presented. You'll be defining a new sign for this word, so make it meaningful to you.

Once everyone has selected a card, take turns introducing your words. On your turn, hold out your card so others can see it. Then, introduce a new sign for it. One at a time, each student will repeat your sign. Remember to tie your new sign to your world.

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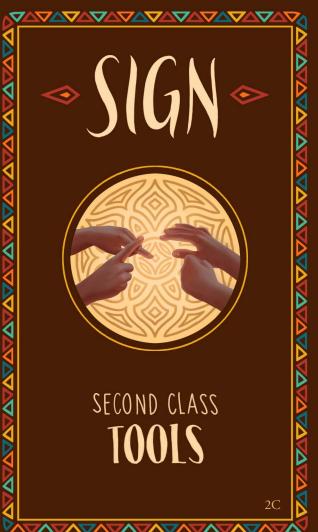
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At the start of class, take turns signing your names. The other students, one by one, will then repeat your name. Take turns.

Pick a Word Card from the choices your teacher has presented. You'll be defining a new sign for this word, so make it meaningful to you.

Once everyone has selected a card, take turns introducing your words. On your turn, hold out your card so others can see it. Then, introduce a new sign for it. One at a time, each student will repeat your sign. Remember to tie your new sign to your world.

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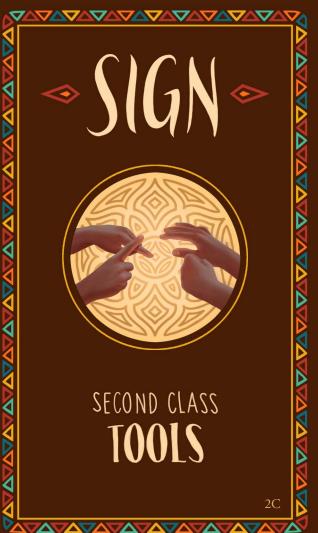
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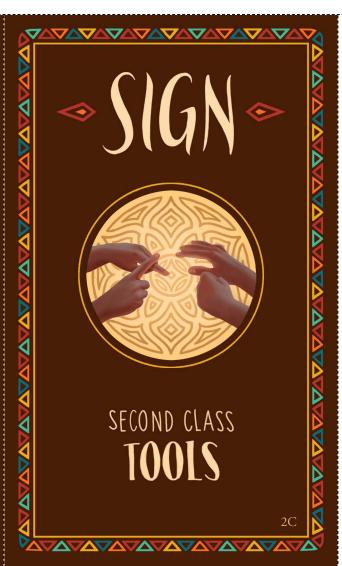
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# BONDS

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At once you're excited and scared, there's still so much unknown for you here. During this recess, try to talk to all the other students.

When it feels natural, steer the conversation toward your Truth. Remember the words you've defined together and grow from there.

You still don't have all the language you need, but don't be discouraged. Mark it as a Compromise and continue on.

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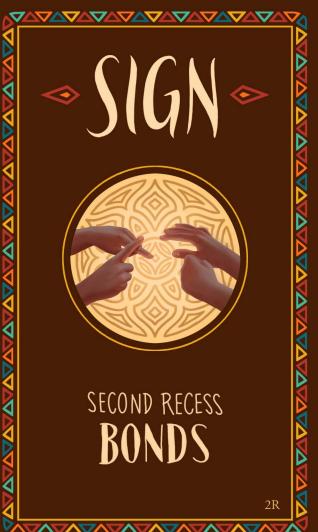
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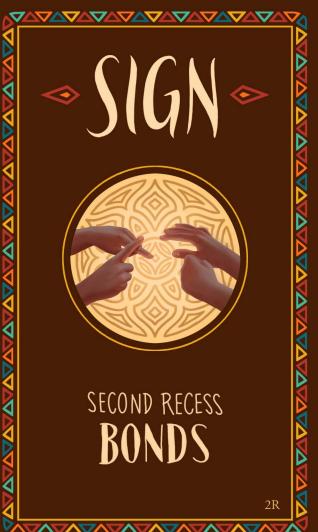
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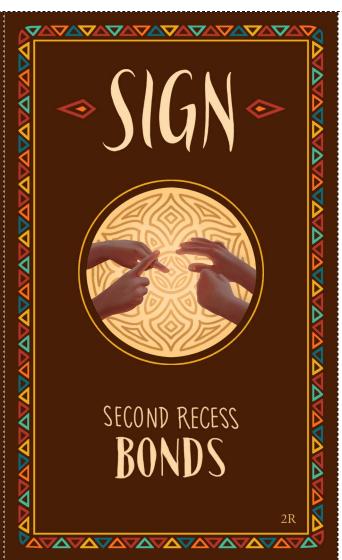
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## CONTROL

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## CONTROL

Now is the time to take control of your language.

Repeat the process from the second class, except this time write a word of your own. Pick a word that helps express your Truth and that can bridge some Compromises you've made along the way.

**Start the class by signing your name.** The other students will repeat it one after another. Take turns.

#### Write down a new word to introduce to the class.

Once all students have finished writing, take turns sharing your word. On your turn, like in the previous class, hold out your word and introduce a new sign for it. Everyone will repeat your sign one by one.

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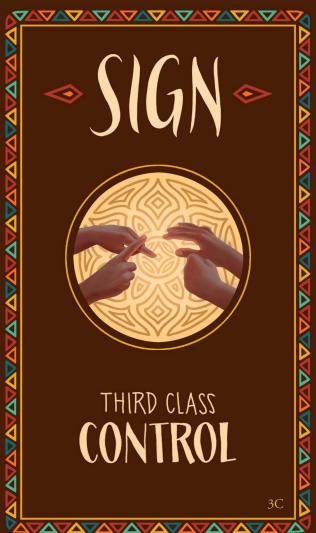
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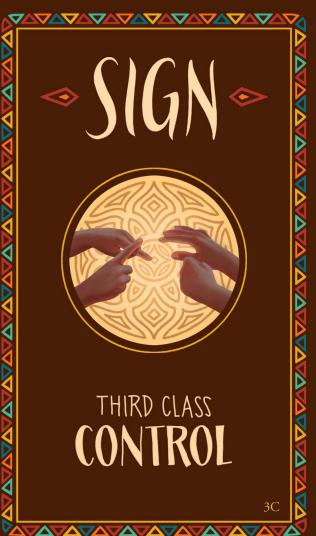
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# HOPE

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Together you now own more language than you've ever had. This is your moment to use it.

In your last recess, sign your Truth as plainly as you can or want, to whomever you trust with it. Try to learn something important about each of the other students.

Say all you need to say.

Together you now own more language than you've ever had. This is your moment to use it.

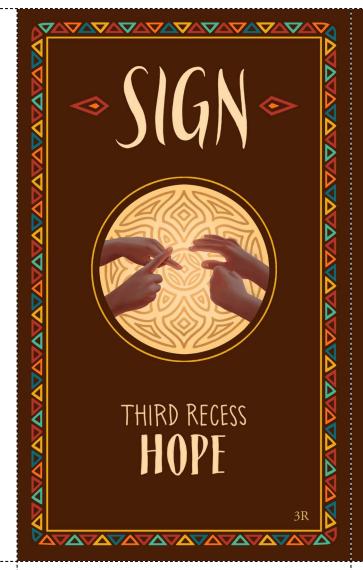
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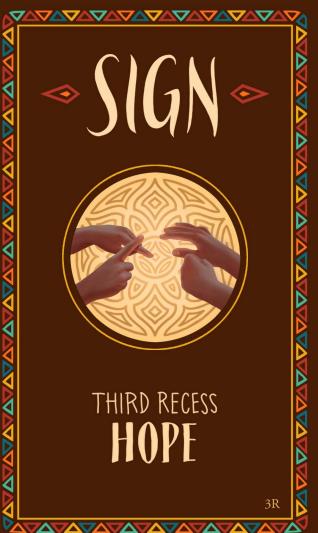
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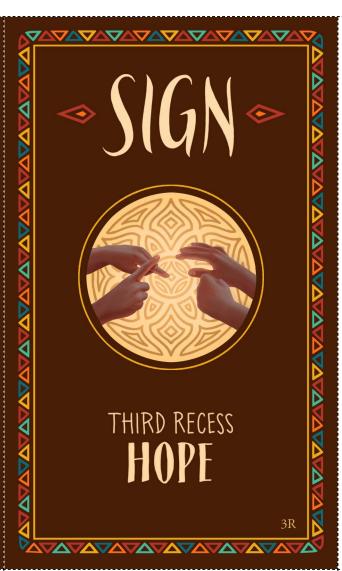
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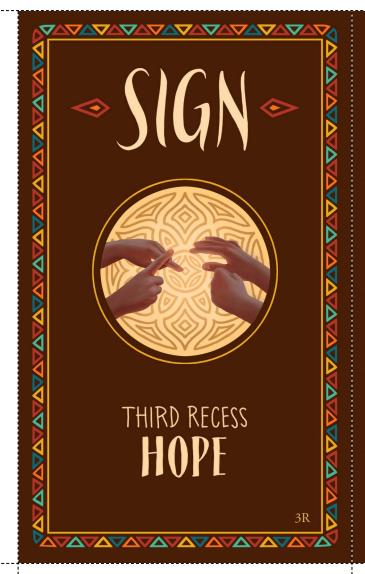
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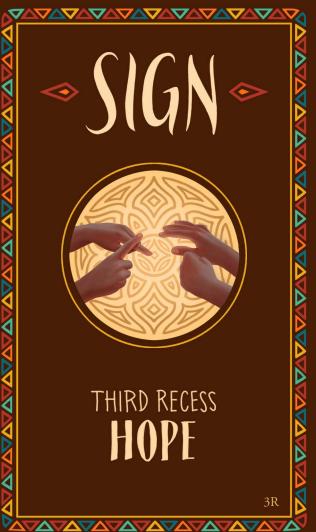
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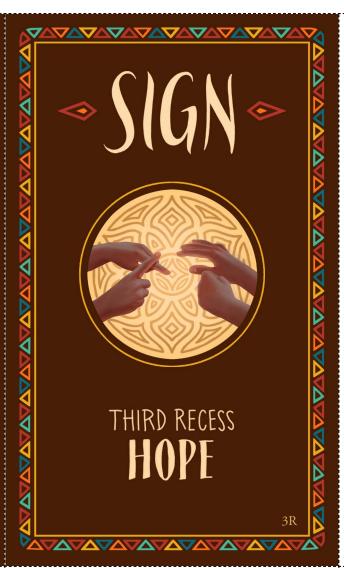
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### **CLASS CARDS FRONT - 13**

# FRIENDS

# FRIENDS

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For the final class, look back on how far you've come in your journey of being understood. Begin the class by signing your names.

In this class, each Student will take a turn being in the spotlight. One by one, the others will do two things while a Student is in the spotlight:

Describe your classmate in the spotlight.

Explain how they make you feel.

After each Student has had a turn in the spotlight, face the Teacher.

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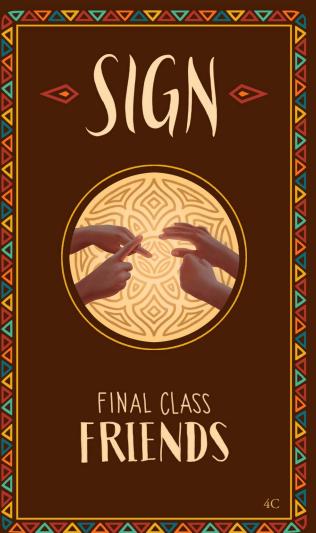
Describe your classmate in the spotlight.

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After each Student has had a turn in the spotlight, face the Teacher.

### **CLASS CARDS BACK - 13**







### **CLASS CARDS FRONT - 14**

# FRIENDS

# FRIENDS

# **FRIENDS**

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### **CLASS CARDS BACK - 14**



