

What Do You Do With an Idea?

Discussion Guide and Activities for At-Home Learning

Age range: 5–8 Grade level: K–3

Written by Kobi Yamada Illustrated by Mae Besom

AWARDS

- Independent Publishers Book Award (2014)
- Washington State Book Award (2014)
- Moonbeam Children’s Book Award (2014)

OBJECTIVE

Teach students about how embracing their ideas and sharing them with the world can benefit both themselves and everyone.

SUMMARY

What Do You Do With an Idea? is a celebration of ideas that come in all shapes and sizes.

It follows a boy who has an idea, one he doesn’t know what to do with. He’s afraid others will think his idea is too strange, too different, too wild, so he keeps it to himself. But as the child’s confidence grows, so does the idea itself. Until one day, something amazing happens.

Yamada and Besom’s award-winning and *New York Times* best-selling book explores why it’s good to nurture and share your ideas—because they might just change the world. Readers will feel encouraged to believe in themselves and trust their wild ideas.

DISCUSSION GUIDE

Everyone has ideas all day, every day. But sometimes we’re too scared to share them. We think they might not be good enough or deemed “bad” by other people. *What Do You Do With an Idea?* encourages readers to pursue their ideas despite the negative voices telling them not to. It teaches us that wild, crazy, and whacky ideas are okay and normal, and that we should believe in and embrace them. And by doing so, we learn to trust ourselves.

Yamada and Besom ultimately want readers to understand that their ideas can change the world. The pair introduces readers to a black-and-white world in the beginning of the book. It’s only when the boy begins to nurture his idea and share it with the world that the pages burst to life in full color. The boy gains resilience as readers watch him defy his critics. He learns to validate himself



internally instead of relying on what others think. Besom's illustrations are tied into the boy's growing sense of confidence—his movements become more fluid and less static, and he becomes drenched with color too.

The key takeaway from this book is that our ideas can make our world better, brighter, and more colorful. And even though it can be scary to share ideas, our world benefits from it and so do we.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Describe a time when you had a new idea. How did your idea make you feel?
- What did you notice about the pictures? Why does color show up at the end of the book?
- Why is it scary sometimes to share your new ideas?
- Why do you think the boy felt happier when his idea was around?
- How are you courageous when you come up with a new idea?
- What do you think it means to become friends with your idea? How does that help it grow?
- What could you tell someone who wants to give up on their idea?
- What do you think will happen to the boy's world after he shared his idea?
- What does it mean to change the world?



ACTIVITIES

Encourage and support wild ideas

Ask students to draw or write down an idea they have and how they think it will change the world. Then, have them practice sharing their idea with classmates, friends, parents or caretakers, siblings, or relatives. How do they think it will change the world? Encourage students to be open minded and accepting of all ideas—including their own. This activity is meant to help students become comfortable coming up with and expressing their ideas.

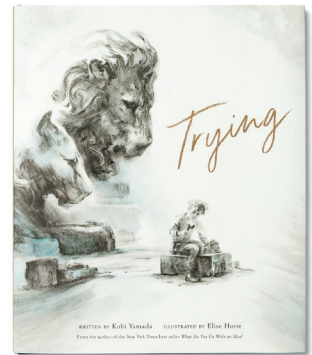
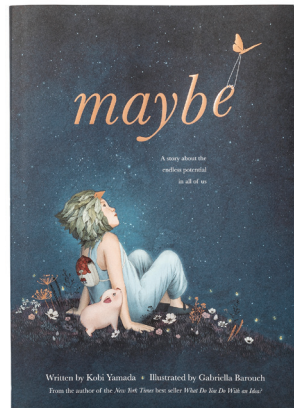
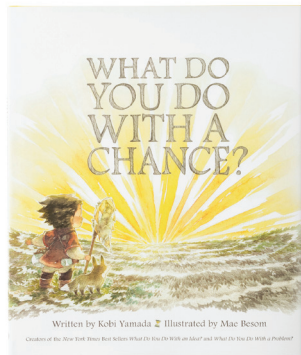
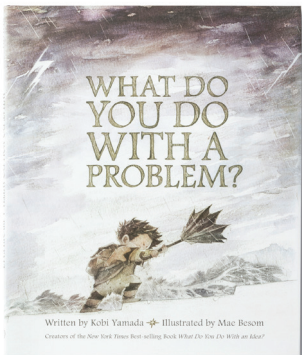
Grow an idea

Take your student’s idea from the first exercise and ask them to add on to it. You can ask them the open-ended question “What else would you add on to your idea?” to help them get started. They can add on anything they like—they can give their idea a color or a name, or they can add a new feature, like a cupcake dispenser or a chocolate fountain. Have them add on to their original idea several times, recording as they go either by having them write down or draw their additional ideas. Once they’ve added several new elements, ask why it’s important that their idea has so many new parts to it. This activity is meant to encourage brainstorming by having students build off of their own ideas.

Create your own idea crown

Give students paper, pens, colored pencils, safety scissors, tape or glue, and anything else they might need to cut out and create their own idea crown. Once they’ve decorated their crown, ask them to wear it and make a video about all the wonderful ideas they came up with! This activity is meant to foster creativity through art and help students get used to sharing their ideas with others.

Interested in more stories from Kobi Yamada? Check out his other books:



Discover more at live-inspired.com today!

