

# Maybe

## Discussion Guide and Activities for At-Home Learning

Age range: 5–8 Grade level: K–3

Written by Kobi Yamada Illustrated by Gabriella Barouch

### AWARDS

- Foreword Reviews Indies Finalist (2019)
- Nautilus Awards (2019)
- Stern Magazine’s Most Beautiful Books of 2019
- 3x3 International Illustration Show Merit Awards (2020)

### OBJECTIVE

Empower students to believe in their possibilities and contribute their unique gifts to the world in ways only they can.

### SUMMARY

*Maybe* is a celebration of all the possibilities we hold inside us.

The book follows the magical adventures of a girl who begins to contribute her skills and ideas to the world. She builds intricate houses, adventures across a sea, creates stars, frees butterflies—and she’s only getting started. By the end of the book she’s changed her world simply by leaving her mark on it. And the world is made so much better for it.

Yamada and Barouch’s award-winning book explores how there’s no one else in the world who can contribute what we can. Readers will feel encouraged to dream about all the ways they can make the world better by following their heart and believing they can make a difference.

### DISCUSSION GUIDE

Sometimes we wonder why we’re here. It’s a big question, one we might not know how to navigate. *Maybe* teaches readers that we’re here to contribute our gifts, our talents, our thoughts, and ourselves—things no one else can give except for us.

The book asks readers to think big and dream about what they want to add to the world. Yamada’s repeated chorus of questions and “maybes” invites readers to begin asking these questions to themselves, which reinforces the idea that we have limitless potential if only we keep exploring what it is we believe we can do. And Barouch’s magical illustrations add to that idea, sparking excitement in readers by showing them all the wonders the girl creates in her world. Barouch and



Yamada set expectations accordingly though by showing the girl failing and making mistakes, as we're all bound to do eventually. But the setbacks are tempered with the gentle reminder that we will always rise.

The key takeaway is that you can and will contribute amazing things to the world in ways only you can.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What's something that only you can do?
- What do you think the world needs right now?
- Why do you think it's good to dream big?
- What does it mean to shine a light into dark places?
- How do you think the girl feels when she falls down and fails? Why is it good to try something new and fail? What do you learn?
- What's a big idea or dream you have that you want to share with the world?
- What do you think it means to follow your heart? How does the girl in the book follow hers?
- How can you make the world a better place by doing what you love?
- How do you think the polar bear feels after receiving help from the girl? Why is it good to help others?



## ACTIVITIES

### Discover a new talent

Encourage students to try a new activity for 30 minutes. It could be drawing, writing, painting, singing, telling jokes, anything at all. They might discover that this new activity is fun or comes naturally. When they're done, ask them how they can use this new talent to change the world. This activity is meant to help kids explore new things and learn what they enjoy.

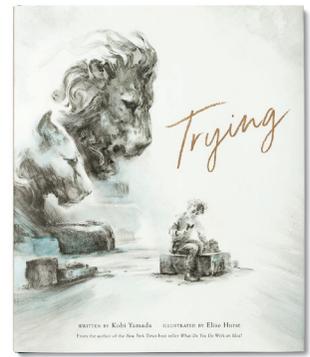
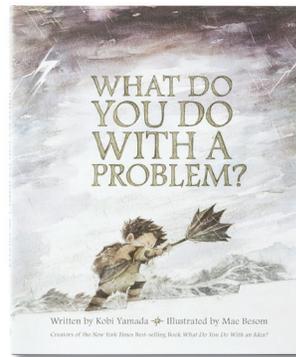
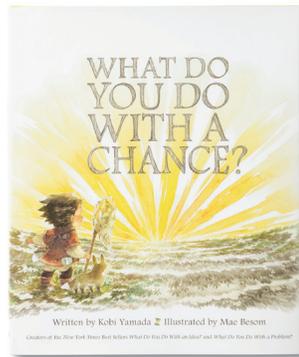
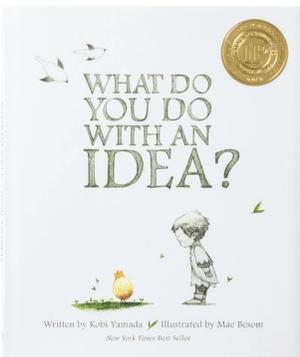
### Share what's magical

Have students tell a classmate, friend, sibling, parent, caregiver, or relative something they think is magical about them. It could be the way they laugh, how they're good at puzzles, or even the way they're always super nice! Sometimes other people are better at seeing our talents than we are, and it feels good to have someone say something nice about us. This activity is meant to encourage kindness and foster communication skills.

### Invent something new

Ask students to come up with something that's never been invented before. They can get as wild as they like! Have them draw their new invention on a sheet of paper with crayons, colored pencils, pens, and any other art supplies that will help bring their idea to life. Once finished, have students share their invention. What did they create? What does it do? How will it help the world? This activity is meant to foster creative skills through drawing and brainstorming new ideas.

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



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