











Selected Discussion Questions by Topic

Below are suggested topics and questions for your convenience. Please feel free to change the level of vocabulary words, and use additional topics and questions as needed.

TOPIC 1 Being Different/Differences: All that makes us special, diverse, unique, and unusual; unlike something or somebody else. Sometimes other people can see what makes us different, and sometimes people cannot see what makes us different.

-  What are differences?
-  Do you know someone who sometimes feels like Aaron?
What about someone who feels like Jesse?
-  How can working with differences make us feel stronger?
-  What if you were Aaron... What would you have wanted from your classmates, parents, siblings, and teachers?
-  What do we learn from Aaron and his story?
-  Do you think Aaron could have done anything else to try to fit in?
Should he have tried to fit in at all?

TOPIC 2 Respect: Feeling valued and being valued; feeling like you make a difference; being considerate towards somebody or something; thoughtfulness.

-  What does respect look like?
-  Is respect important?
-  Was Aaron treated with respect?
-  How did Aaron treat the other Premiums?



TOPIC 3 Courage: Standing up for what you know is right, no matter what; even if others may not agree with you and even if you are afraid.

- ✎ When someone is courageous, what does that look like?
- ✎ What does it take to be courageous?
- ✎ What does courage mean to you?
- ✎ Who is courageous in the book and why?
- ✎ How do you think Jessie feels when he does not find the strength to stick up for Aaron? Does he redeem himself? What would you wish Jessie really did?

TOPIC 4 Resilience: Being able to cope with stressful situations, bounce back, and be positive even when things are difficult.

- ✎ What did Aaron do to help himself (self-help)?
- ✎ What should we do when we are disappointed?
- ✎ How can we deal with stress?
- ✎ What can we do for ourselves and others to help them feel less stressed and more connected?

TOPIC 5 Hero: Someone who is brave and often looked up to by others. A hero can also be helpful, polite, or assist those who need it.

- ✎ What does a hero look like? How do they behave? What do you need to do to be a hero?
- ✎ Who is a hero you know, and why are they a hero? (This can include a real person and/or a character from a book, TV program, or movie.)
- ✎ What are the different ways someone can be a hero?
- ✎ Are there any heroes in the story of *Aaron the Different*? If there are heroes, who are they, and why are those characters heroes?
- ✎ If there are no heroes in the story, what could the characters in *Aaron the Different* have done to become heroes?



TOPIC 6 Change/How to Make Change Stick:

- ✎ How can you make sure that your needs and feelings are heard?
How can you make sure that others' needs and feelings are met?
- ✎ What has Aaron changed in himself and others?
- ✎ Who else changed or did not really change yet, and why?
- ✎ What needs to be done to make sure that changes really happen?

