



*Julián Is a Mermaid*

by Jessica Love

After seeing three women spectacularly dressed up as mermaids, Julián makes his own mermaid costume from Abuela's curtain and potted fern. What will she think of the mess—and of Julián the mermaid?

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The joy of pretend and dress up activates imaginations and exercises language skills. When kids pretend to be other people, they are experimenting with new ideas and behaviors and exploring the elements of identity. This can be a strong lesson in empathy. Have students talk about the expression “walking in someone else’s shoes.” Ask students to think about how they can use their imaginations to learn about and understand the experiences of others. Have them generate a list of “shoes to walk in,” research a related issue, and come up with ways they can communicate their new understanding.

**Try other titles about exploring identity:**

- Amazing Grace* by Mary Hoffman
- Hat* by Paul Hoppe
- Sparkle Boy* by Lesléa Newman
- Lucía the Luchadora* by Cynthia Leonor Garza
- Jamela's Dress* by Niki Daly

**JUNE 2019**

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
		<b>June is:</b> • LGBT Month • National Audiobook Month				<b>1</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> Flag Day	<b>15</b>
<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> Juneteenth	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>
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