



WEEK 1

Discover Your Strengths

What makes you uniquely awesome? How can you use your strengths to support your community?

Identity Puzzles

Your Quest:

Help your child design a 6-10-piece jigsaw puzzle with each piece showcasing a different part of their identity.

By embarking on this quest, your child will gain the following skills:

- Self-expression through art
- Understanding of the concept of “identity” and what makes each person unique

Mission Materials:

- Optional Printables
 - Identity Brainstorm #1 (pg. 4)
 - Identity Brainstorm #2 (pg. 5)
- Blank white paper (8½” x 11” or larger)
- Thin cardboard from a cereal box or other packaging
- Pencil
- Glue or glue stick
- Scissors
- Markers / colored pencils / crayons

Mission Directions:

1. Talk with your child about the idea of identity. Share that someone’s identity is the combination of their unique characteristics, qualities, and beliefs. Share all of your different identities (e.g. mother — daughter — Puerto-Rican — teacher — person who lives in the Bronx — reader — person who loves chocolate ice-cream, dogs, and traveling to see family). Talk with your child about how their identity can be made up of any/all of the following things:
 - a. Race/ethnicity
 - b. Role in your family (e.g. sister, brother, daughter, son, grandson, niece, etc.)
 - c. Appearance (e.g. brown eyes, curly hair, etc.)
 - d. Where you live



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- e. Where your family is from
 - f. Your language(s)
 - g. Your abilities - things you're good at and able to do!
 - h. Your interests - things that you love (e.g. food, sports, hobbies, etc.)!
 - i. Your personality (e.g. outgoing, funny, kind, helpful, good friend, etc.)
 - j. Religion
2. Talk with your child about the different parts of their identity using the categories above as a guide. Discuss: What makes them unique? What do they like about themselves? What makes them special? What are things they can do? What are their favorite things?
 - a. Optional: Print out and use one of the Identity Brainstorm sheets to help you and your child brainstorm about their unique identity. In **Identity Brainstorm #1** (pg. 4) you or your child will write their name in the middle of the web and then you will help your child fill in parts of their identity around the web. In **Identity Brainstorm #2** (pg. 5) you will help your child complete the sentence prompts (e.g. I am..., I like..., I can...).
3. To prepare to make the puzzle, help your child carefully glue the white paper to the sheet of thin cardboard. It is important that the thin cardboard piece and the white paper are the same size. Make sure they are glued together evenly in all places and let dry.
4. After it dries, help your child use a pencil to divide the paper/cardboard into 6-10 puzzle pieces. Your puzzle pieces can be simple squares or more complicated "puzzle piece" shapes.
5. As the adult, cut the paper/cardboard into the puzzle pieces. You should now have 6-10 individual pieces that can be recombined into a single puzzle.
6. On each of the individual puzzle pieces, help your child write and draw about one part of their identity.
7. Once they have completed each puzzle piece, work with them to put their identity puzzle back together! Talk with your child about how they should be proud of all parts of their identity. Store their identity puzzle in a plastic baggie. Optional: Show the puzzle to another family member and have them put it together!

Level Up:

- Your child can teach other family members about how to make identity puzzles about themselves so that you have a set of puzzles that includes everyone in your family!
- Consider working with your child to make an identity puzzle about a character from a book. What are the pieces of their identity that we learn about through the story? Hint: Use our recommended "Explore More" titles for this activity.

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More to Explore at the Library:

- Check out *Julián is a Mermaid* by Jessica Love ([e-book](#) and [print copies](#) available) about a boy who is inspired by mermaids he sees on the subway to express himself in a special way. This title is one of our [125 Kids Books We Love!](#) We also recommend *The Day You Begin* by Jacqueline Woodson ([e-audiobook](#) and [print copies](#) available) about a girl who learns that her differences are what make her special.
- View the animated videos of *Chrysanthemum* by Kevin Henkes (available in English or Spanish), *Amazing Grace* by Mary Hoffman, and *Exclamation Mark* by Amy Krouse Rosenthal. All of these titles tell the stories of characters who learn to be proud of their unique qualities. All are available for free without checkout limits on [Scholastic Bookflix](#) with your library card number.

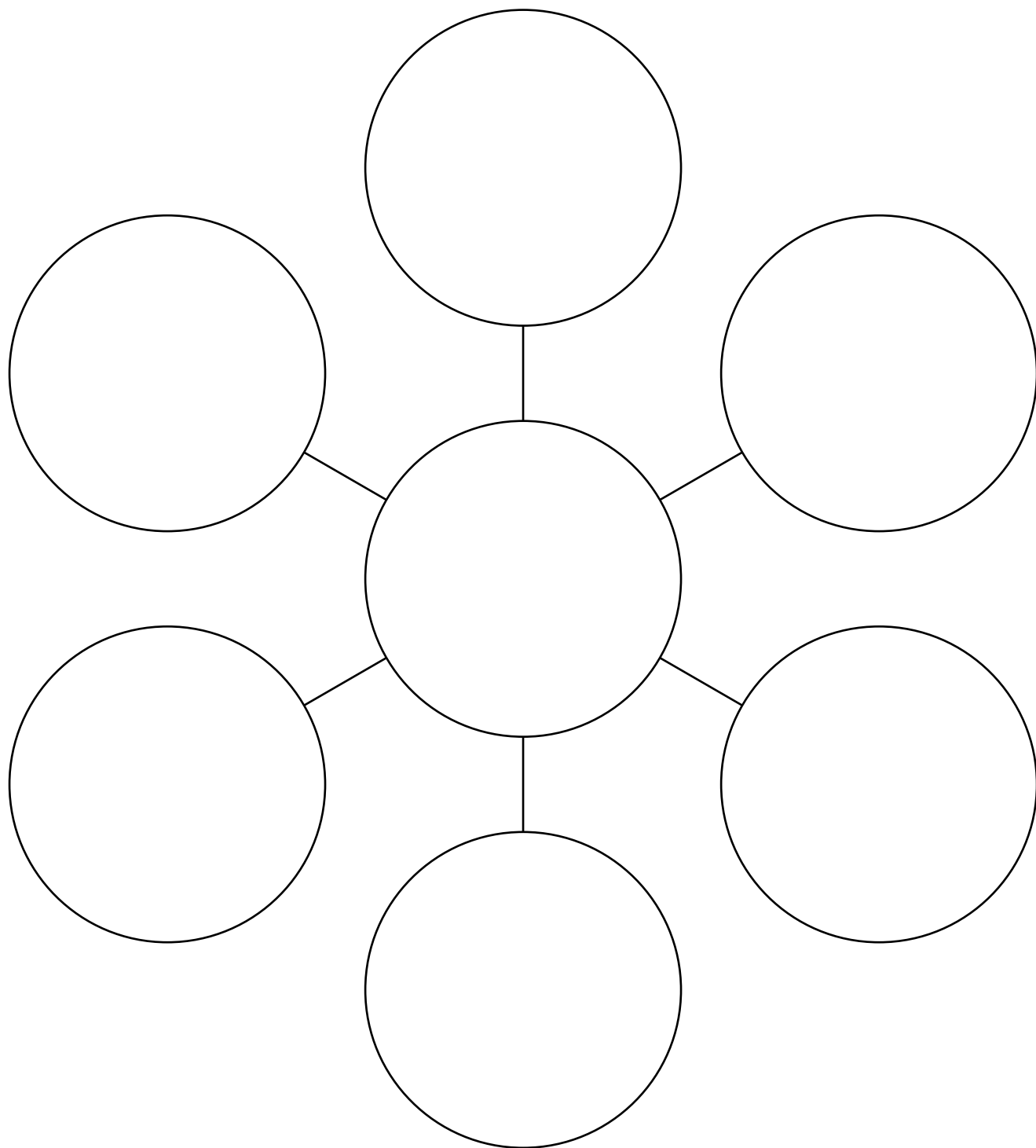
Your Reward:

Make sure to visit NYPL's Online Reading Portal through our partner Beanstack and log your completed activity to receive a special badge! Find our portal at nypl.org/summerreading.

Activity Author: Rachel Roseberry, Manager of Youth Literacy Programs

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Identity Brainstorm #1



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Identity Brainstorm #2

I am _____
_____.

I can _____
_____.

I believe _____
_____.

I have _____
_____.

I like _____
_____.