

Discussion Guide and Lesson Plan

Turn a ten-minute read-aloud of *What Color is Your Sand?* into a real conversation about gratitude, contentment, and the trap of comparison. Plan about 10 minutes to read and 15 to 20 to discuss and create.

Before you read

- Have you ever wished you had something someone else has? What was it?
- What does it mean to be thankful? Can you be thankful and still want things?
- When you picture a beach, what do you notice first?

Words worth knowing

- Gratitude – noticing and feeling glad about the good you already have.
- Contentment – feeling at peace with what you have right now.
- Comparison – measuring what you have against others, which often steals our joy.

After you read: discussion questions

- What do you think the sand stands for in this story?
- When do you catch yourself wishing to be near 'better' sand than your own?
- Name three things worth treasuring, even on a hard day.
- Who is someone you are grateful for, and what would you thank them for?
- Can two people stand on the same beach and see it differently? How?

Three activities

1. My Jar of Sand

Give each child a jar outline to fill with drawings or words for the people, places, and moments they treasure. Display the jars together so the class sees how many different colors of sand fill the room. A free printable jar is at whatcolorisyoursand.com/resources.

2. A five-senses beach walk

Have students close their eyes and picture a place they love. Walk them through all five senses, then have them write or draw the one detail they never want to forget. Noticing is where gratitude begins.

3. The class sand chart

Draw a wide strip of 'sand' on chart paper. Each child adds a sticky note for one thing they are grateful for. Keep it up all week and add to it. Comparison shrinks when a room counts its blessings out loud.

Writing prompt

Finish and illustrate: 'My sand is the color of _____, because _____. ' Their answers make a beautiful bulletin board and a keepsake families love.

Supports the CASEL competencies of self-awareness and social awareness. Get the book at amazon.com/dp/1518886353 or book an author visit at whatcolorisyoursand.com/speaking.