Who are you? What makes up your personal identity?

Before we begin diving into books that show main characters grappling with their identities, let’s take a closer look at our own self. What is important to you? What do you identify with? What identifies you?

As we step into a character’s shoes where their identity and sense of self is challenged or strengthened by overcoming obstacles, it helps if we first have an idea of who we are or at least who we want to be.

Today your goal is to start thinking about what makes up who you are and who you want to be!

**Brainstorm:** Think about the identity map below. What choices, values, beliefs, aspects of your appearance, ethnicity, practices/habits, hobbies, friends, family, interests, or possession would give someone an idea of who you are and what you hold to be important? All of us are made up of different layers, so you may be surprised what you find.

**You can also think of the following questions to help you think of your “I am…” statements:**

- What is your story from birth until now?
- What are your plans for the future?
- What are your talents?
- What are your goals?
- What are you scared of?
- What are your weaknesses?
- What are your favorite things?
- What colors reflect your personality?
Now that you have a brainstorm or list of different aspects of your personality, create your own Padlet or Piccollage that houses at least 4-5 images that represent your identity each accompanied by an “I am…” statement.

1. Post a “summary” of your identity in the top part of the padlet. Then, pick out at least 4-5 aspects or parts of your identity to represent with an “I am” statement and an image to represent that part of yourself.

Example 1

Miss Lehman’s Brainstorm/Summary:

I am a teacher, but I am also a daughter, a sister, a friend, an ally and advocate, a reader, a writer, a dreamer, a doer, a creator, a hiker, a yogi, a painter, a traveler, a car karaoke singer, story-seeker, a ponderer, an athlete, a field hockey player, a coach, a dog and cat and all animal person, a positive thinker. I am more than just what you see, and even more than what I represent on this board.

Miss Lehman’s Identity Padlet: http://padlet.com/MissLehman/WhoAmI2016

Example 2

Mrs. Melhorn’s Brainstorm/Summary:

I am a teacher, but I am so much more than that. I am a mother, a wife, a sister, a friend, a reader, a positive thinker, a wannabe artist, an athlete, a sports enthusiast, a previous marathon runner, a ping pong lover, an Australian and American, and a person who seeks to understand differences. I am strengthened by the integrity of my husband and the joy of my son. I am more than a pregnant lady and more than a teacher. I continue to evolve and change, and that, I have found, is one of the joys of life.

http://pic-collage.com/_HfQOvJsZ

Later we will post our Padlets and/or Pic Collages to Kidblog and answer the questions:

Explain the layers or aspects of your identity.
What challenges your identity?
What strengthens and affirms your identity?