

Finding Myself

FOCUS QUESTION

What does it mean to fit in?

NOTICE AND WONDER

Look at the titles and images of the stories you will read in this lesson. What do you notice? What do you wonder?

Discuss your ideas with a partner.

I notice the title ___. I wonder if this story is about ___.

The image for ___ makes me wonder ___.

WHAT IS ACCEPTANCE?

What does the word *acceptance* mean? Each of the words and phrases below comes from the stories you will read in this lesson. Circle the words you think are closely related to acceptance. Discuss your ideas with a partner.

it figures

prove

different

curious

unique

get used to

surprise

convince

listen



from *Stand Up, Yumi Chung!*

by Jessica Kim



from *Wonder*

by R. J. Palacio



from *Garvey's Choice*

by Nikki Grimes



from STAND UP, YUMI CHUNG!

by Jessica Kim

It's summer and Yumi Chung is secretly attending comedy camp in the afternoons. She hopes to audition for PAMS, a performing arts middle school. But Yumi's parents want her to go to Winston, an elite private school. They assume she spends every spare moment studying for a scholarship exam.

Now it's time for the camp showcase and Yumi faces a difficult decision.

showcase = an event where people perform for an audience

- 1 Would it be such a crazy idea to invite my parents to the **showcase**? Maybe, just maybe, if I blow them away with my act, they'll see why I need to go to PAMS.
- 2 But first, I have to convince my parents to listen with the one thing I can count on to get their attention: my education. From now on, I'll have to study extra hard so I can ace that test. I'll do whatever I have to do to prove to Mom and Dad that I can get good grades *and* do comedy at the same time. I have to prove to them that I can do things my own way. 

Stop & Discuss

What is Yumi's goal?

Underline sentences that support your answer.

- 3 I don't know exactly how I'm going to pull this off. All I know for sure is if I want a shot at going to PAMS, I have to give it all I've got. I open to a blank page of my notebook and start plotting the details of Operation Show-My-Case.

Operation Show-My-Case

Who: Mom and Dad

What: Invite Mom and Dad to come see me perform at the Haha Club Comedy Camp Showcase

When: August 13

Where: Haha Club

Why: So they'll see my passion and talent

STEP ONE: Invite parents to the showcase.

STEP TWO: Perform my best material at the showcase.

—Mom and Dad will be very confused but impressed.

—Tell them the truth about camp.

STEP THREE: Ace the test.

—Study every night at least three hours after dinner.

—Ask my test-prep teacher for extra homework and additional practice tests. (Gulp!)

STEP FOUR: PAMS

—Ask Mom and Dad to let me audition for PAMS; they'll say yes because it's free and because of the showcase.

—Attend PAMS with [my comedy camp buddies] Sienna and Felipe, get great grades, become world-class comedian.

- 4 Live happily ever after. 

Stop & Discuss

How sure is Yumi that her plan will solve her problem?

- ☐ very confident
☐ somewhat confident
☐ not at all confident

Explain your ideas to a partner.



Determine Theme

- The **theme** is a central message the author wants readers to think about.
- Noticing how characters find solutions to their problems can help you determine the theme.
- A strong theme applies to other stories and to real life, not just to one story.

Reread/Think

Reread *Stand Up, Yumi Chung!* Add key details to the story map about the setting, characters, problem, and solution. All of these story elements will help you determine the theme.

Setting

Characters

Problem

Solution

Theme

