

# GO AND...

## JUST ASK: BE DIFFERENT, BE BRAVE, BE YOU

By Sonia Sotomayor;  
Illustrated By Rafael López  
(New York, NY: Philomel Books, 2019).

What questions do you have? What questions do the young people around you have and ask? Perhaps the most common type of questions one might hear from young people as they begin to go to school and make friends is, why am I different? That question might not be asked as directly as that, but it's this type of question which is at the heart of "Just Ask." Written from the author's experience of having diabetes early on as a child, the reader is taken on a journey through the experience of daily life and being in a garden, by meeting many different kids of all types, ages, and experiences and seeing that it's okay to be different and to lean in more fully into who you are. Questions that are pondered in this book include: Do you ever need to take medicine to be healthy? Do you use a tool to help your body? How do you get from place to place? How do you use your senses? Are you really good at something? What do you like to talk about? Do you ever wonder if people understand you? Do you ever feel frustrated? What's helpful to you? What helps you learn? How do you use your voice? And what will you do with your powers?

I love the way the book concludes. The author writes, "Imagine if all the plants in this garden were exactly the same- life what if we only could grow peas? That would mean no strawberries or cucumbers or carrots. It might also mean no trees or roses or sunflowers. Just like in our garden, all the ways we are different make our neighborhood- our whole world really- more interesting and fun. And just like all of these plants, each of us has unique powers to share with the world and make it more interesting and richer." Good questions for all to ponder of any age, especially as we "Go and..." And these questions might even help us think too about vocation, which to do so during the month we remember the Reformation may be an added bonus.

