

The Candy Dish

Discussion Guide and Activities for At-Home Learning

Age range: 5–8 Grade level: K–3

Written by Kobi Yamada Illustrated by Adelina Lirius

OBJECTIVE

Encourage students to practice gratitude and to look for something to appreciate each day.

SUMMARY

The Candy Dish celebrates the beauty and joy we can find when we choose to recognize all that we already have and see each day as an exciting, unique experience.

The book tells the story of a little girl who discovers a magical candy dish containing a single piece of the most delicious candy imaginable. It's so delightful that she immediately wants another, and the girl does everything in her power to get more. Unsuccessful in her efforts, she feels frustration and self-pity until she learns to savor the new piece of candy that the dish grants her each day. She comes to appreciate its one-of-a-kind splendor, realizing each new candy is much like the magic of a brand-new day.

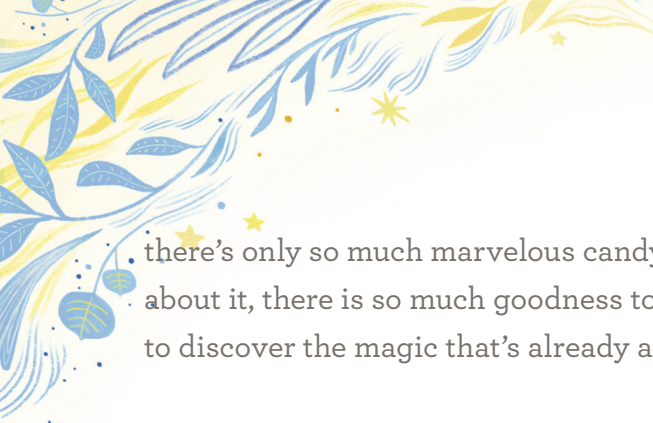
Yamada and Lirius's new book reflects on the power of gratitude and teaches us how to see each day as a gift. Readers will feel excited that they, too, can daily experience the spectacular, if only they think of all the wonder their life already holds.

DISCUSSION GUIDE

Who doesn't want more of a good thing? Sometimes, when we get something really good, we feel upset when it's gone and can only focus on what we don't have. *The Candy Dish* shows readers that being appreciative for what we have in the first place can help us feel so much happier and reveal amazing things we didn't see before.

The story inspires and challenges readers to adopt a perspective of gratefulness and embrace the new possibilities each day holds. Yamada's lively descriptions of the candy's flavors portray how vibrant the simple joys in life can be, calling to mind for readers the everyday moments that make them feel alive. Lirius' illustrations, full of whimsical details such as bright florals and shimmering beams of light, make the character's world all the more captivating. Yet, despite the beauty all around her, the girl experiences moments of discontentment and has a hard time accepting that





there's only so much marvelous candy available to her each day. But when you really think about it, there is so much goodness to stop and enjoy—because each day is a special invitation to discover the magic that's already all around.

The key takeaway is that each day holds something to be grateful for—and when you're grateful, all the best things get even better.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Have you ever wanted more of something, but you didn't get it? How did you feel?
- What does it mean to feel sorry for yourself? Why is it better to think about the things we do have, instead of the things we don't have?
- What's something you're grateful for right now, in this moment?
- What is special about each piece of candy the girl finds?
- Why does the girl decide to throw away the candy dish?
- What do you think it means when the girl smiles in her heart? Why did this happen?
- Why are some things more special when we only have a little bit of them?
- How is the candy dish a lot like each day?
- How is every day a gift?

ACTIVITIES

Imagine fun flavors

Ask students to imagine they are creating a new type of candy, with the most incredible color, texture, and flavor they can imagine. Have them draw their piece of candy on a sheet of paper using colorful writing tools like crayons or markers. They can even add glitter, beads, or other craft elements to make their candy all the more magical. Once finished, have students share their pictures and describe what their candy tastes like. This activity is meant to foster creativity and encourage unique ideas.



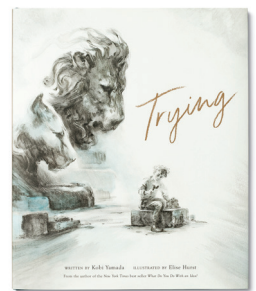
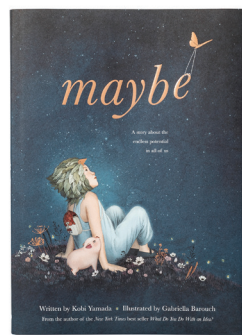
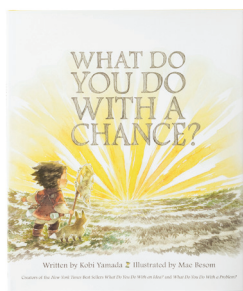
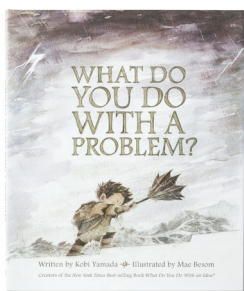
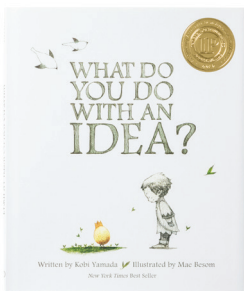
Choose a “candy”

Fill an empty bowl or dish with pieces of paper to represent “candy,” perhaps using colorful construction paper cut into circles or other fun shapes. Have students take a paper from your “candy dish.” On their paper, they can write or draw something beautiful, cool, or awesome that they’ve seen or experienced before. It could be going to a theme park or finding a four-leaf clover—anything that has ever made them feel awe-inspired. When finished, ask students to share their experiences. (Bonus: if you’re feeling extra generous, you could add actual pieces of candy to the dish and allow students to take one). This activity is meant to encourage kids to observe the world around them and discover the things they find inspiring.

Share gratitude

Challenge students to a Week of Gratitude by asking them to think of one thing they’re grateful for each day for one week. Set aside some discussion time every day for students to share their daily gratitude with the class and explain why they are grateful for what they chose. How does it make them feel when they think of all the good things in their lives? Students can also share what they’re thankful for with a parent, caretaker, or sibling at home. This activity is meant to help kids develop gratitude and foster communication skills.

Interested in more stories from Kobi Yamada? Check out his other books:



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