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WHY DO WE READ?

Reading books can take you on a fun adventure and help you meet new friends. Reading can teach you new things. It can help you become a better writer and adds new words to your vocabulary.



MAKING READING CONNECTIONS



Have you ever read a story that you connected with? Maybe the character looked like you, acted like you, or faced a problem you have faced before. Maybe you didn't connect with the story, but you learned a lesson from it or learned about someone different from you.

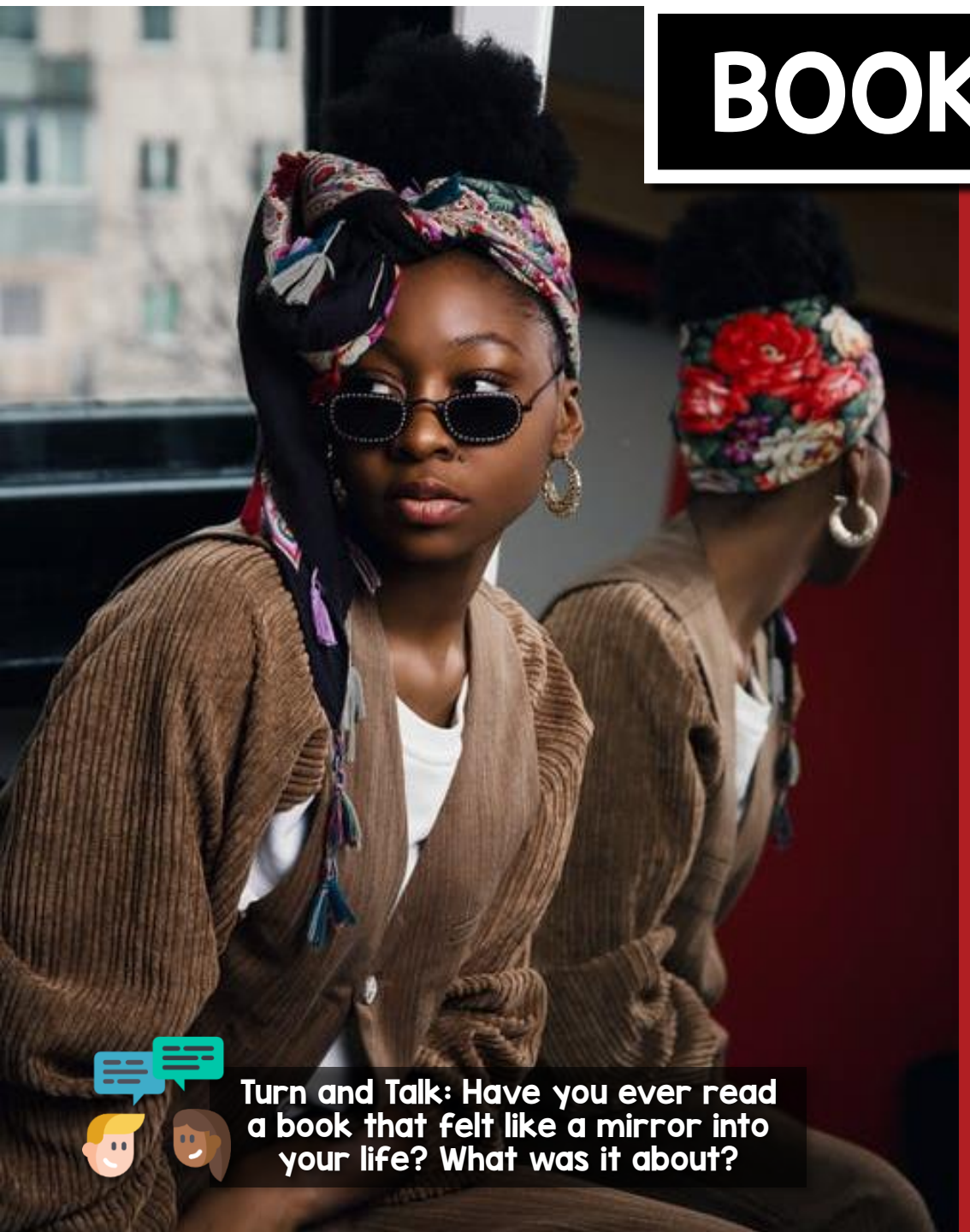
DR. RUDINE SIMS BISHOP

Dr. Rudine Sims Bishop is Professor Emerita of Education at The Ohio State University. She has taught courses about children's literature. An idea she has shared stated that books can sometimes be mirrors or windows.



Turn and Talk: What do you think she meant?

BOOKS CAN BE MIRRORS



Turn and Talk: Have you ever read a book that felt like a mirror into your life? What was it about?

When you look into a mirror, what do you see? Yourself! Dr. Rudine Sims Bishop tells us that sometimes a book can be a mirror because you can see yourself in the story or in the characters. Stories like this can help you feel like there are other people just like you in the world.

BOOKS CAN BE WINDOWS

When you look out of a window, what do you see? The world. Different things around you. Dr. Rudine Sims Bishop tells us that sometimes books can be a window because they can help you see into the lives of others who are different from you. Books can help you learn about different people, cultures, and places. Stories like this can help you understand and build empathy for others.



Turn and Talk: Have you ever read a book that felt like a window into someone else's life? What did you learn?

A BOOK AS A MIRROR



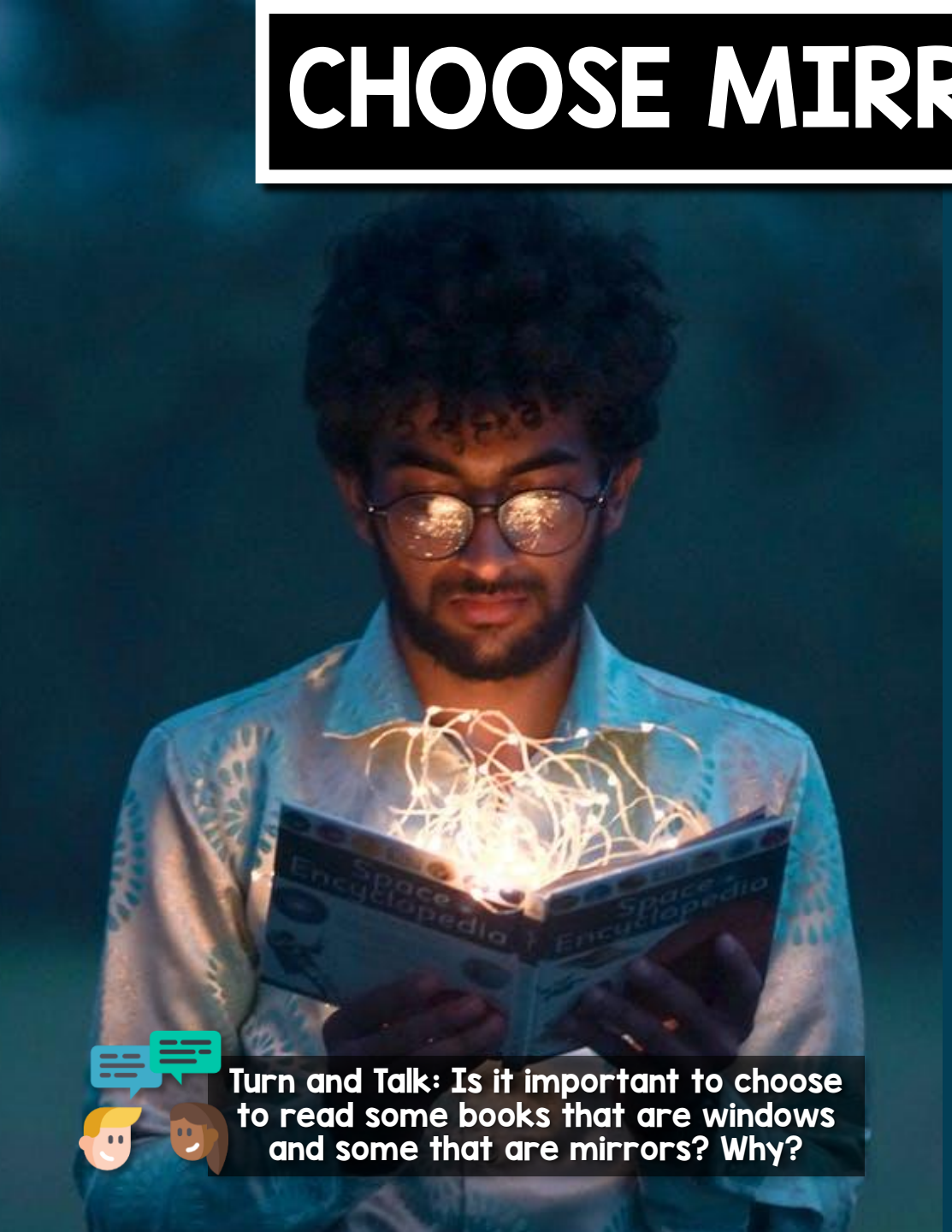
Imagine reading a book about a boy who got into an argument with his little sister because she broke his favorite toy. His sister said sorry, and he forgave her. You might read that book and think to yourself, "Hey! I get into fights with my little sister, too! We always say sorry and make up just like the characters in this story." That book would be a mirror for you.

A BOOK AS A WINDOW

Imagine reading a book about a girl who has to deal with learning a new language because her family has to move to a new country. It is very hard for her to learn, but eventually she does and she is proud of herself. You might read that book and think to yourself, "Hmmm, nothing like this has ever happened to me. But now I know that some people leave their home countries and it may be hard to learn a new language." That book would be a window for you.



CHOOSE MIRRORS AND WINDOWS



Turn and Talk: Is it important to choose to read some books that are windows and some that are mirrors? Why?

When you choose books it's important to choose ones that are mirrors AND windows. It can feel nice to read about characters who look and act just like you in a book. That's a mirror. It is also nice to learn about different people in the world around you through a book. That is a window.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Now that you have learned about how books can sometimes be windows or mirrors, which type of book do you think is the most important to read? Why?

window



mirror



