

*Niko Draws a Feeling*  
**Discussion Guide**  
Grades K – 3<sup>rd</sup>

**Before Reading: to activate schema, build background knowledge, and set a purpose.**

- Start by asking, “What is something that you like to do to make you feel happy?” (Optional: Pair Share)
- Set a purpose for reading: “As we read today, think about how Niko uses art to help express his emotions.”

**During Reading: to engage students, check for understanding, and make connections.**

- What types of things inspire Niko to draw?
- How do you think Niko feels about others’ reaction to his drawings?
- In what ways does Iris’ perspective of Niko’s drawings change how he sees his art?
- The last page reads, “Niko smiled. “Not to me.”” Why doesn’t Niko think Iris feeling butterflies land on her finger is weird?

**After Reading: to summarize, question, and reflect.**

- Revisit the purpose for reading: “How does Niko use art to express his feelings? How does Iris change his perspective of his artwork?”
- **Extend:** Fold a piece of paper to create 8 small boxes. Choose 8 different prompts to have students respond to by drawing. Such prompts could include: “How do you feel when you listen to books?” or “How do you feel when it’s your birthday and you are opening presents?”. Tell students to illustrate the feeling that comes to mind when they hear the statement being read aloud. Encourage students to discuss with a partner after illustrations are complete.

If your students enjoyed this book...

- Encourage them to continue to discuss it and refer to it in other lessons and conversations.
- Let them explore more books about different forms of expression such as [\*More than Words: So Many Ways to Say What We Mean\*](#).