

More than Words: So Many Ways to Say What We Mean
Discussion Guide
Grades Pre-K – 2nd

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

- Read the author's section on the last page with students. Read the section about why people communicate and what it means to communicate.
- Ask students how they communicate when they are happy, sad, or need something. Discuss the different ways we can express these feelings without using words.
- Ask students why it might be important to understand different ways people communicate. Discuss what we can learn about someone by the way they communicate.

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

- What are some different ways Nathan's classmates communicate without using words?
- Do you know someone who communicates in a way that is different from how you communicate? What can we learn from them?
- How can understanding different ways people communicate help us be better friends or classmates?

After Reading: to summarize, question, and reflect.

- Ask: What did you learn about different ways people communicate from this book?
- Tell students to think about how they communicate daily. Are there ways they could include some of the methods they saw in the book to help others feel included? On chart paper, brainstorm ideas on how the class can be more inclusive in class communication. Throughout the book, the importance of diverse communication methods is exemplified. Have students choose a communication method they learned about and create a poster that explains how it works and why it's important. For younger students, encourage them to draw pictures of characters using different communication methods from the book.

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 about the topic by reading other books with similar themes, structure, characters, or content.