



# I'm New Here

By Anne Sibley O'Brien

Language and cultural differences can make fitting in at a new school difficult. Perseverance and bravery lead to inclusion in this story.

## READ

**Before:** Introduce the book and tell the children a little bit about it. Follow with a comment or question that is related to the story such as, what do you think this story is about? Encourage a discussion so the children can comment, ask questions, and express their feelings. Set the stage for listening by asking an "I wonder" statement based on the cover illustration.

*I wonder what these children have in common?*

**During:** Encourage the children to comment on the illustrations, ask questions and predict what will happen next in the story. Children gain confidence and a sense of achievement through being able to correctly predict how a story will end. Point out "rare words" (e.g., those words that are not commonly used in every day conversation) and help the children relate the meaning in a way that makes sense to them.

### Countries in (I'm New Here):

Using a map or globe, show your students where these countries are located and how far away they are from your school:

Guatemala  
Somalia  
Korea

**After:** Discuss the story. Ask questions...

- How would you feel if you moved to a new community where you couldn't understand the language or read and write?
- Talk about the definition of a refugee- a person who flees for safety to a foreign country.
- Maria was from Guatemala. How did she make friends and shine?
- Jin had difficulty with writing but shared his Korean language with his new classmates. What did he teach his fellow classmates?
- What did Fatimah have in common and share with her classmates?
- What would you share with a new student in your class from a different country in your class about your country?



## Multicultural Collage

### Materials:

- classroom bulletin board or classroom door
- a photo of each child's family
- construction paper

Have each child trace their hand and wrist on different shades of construction paper and cut them out. Attach the hands and family photos around the perimeter of the bulletin board. Use the attached quote as the centerpiece of your bulletin board.



Do your little bit  
of good where you are;  
it's those little bits of  
good put together that  
overwhelm the world.

- Desmond Tutu