



# Team Small and Tall

## READ ALOUD GUIDE

**Themes:** Teamwork, Celebrating Differences

**Book Brief:** A fun story about Jonas and Grace, twins who are very different sizes, and discover that their differences make them an amazing team!

**Author:**  
Chris James

**Illustrator:**  
Serena Lombardo

## BEFORE READING

**The Cover:** Ask students to make a prediction about the story based on the cover and title.

**The Pictures:** Take a quick picture walk and ask students what they notice about the illustrations.

**Prior Knowledge:** Ask, “Do you have a friend or sibling who is different from you? How is being different okay?” (Optional: Think, Pair, Share)

**Vocabulary:** Frontload Tier 2 words using the accompanying [Vocabulary Guide](#).

**Purpose for Reading:** “As we read, think about Jonas and Grace. What happens when they play basketball together?”



**Think Aloud:** “I notice at first, Jonas and Grace are upset about being different sizes. But when they play basketball together, they discover something amazing. Their differences aren't bad. It's actually what makes them great.”

## DURING READING

**Check for understanding & make connections:**

- Why don't Jonas and Grace like being different sizes?
- What sport do they play in PE class? How do they feel about it?
- How do Jonas and Grace work together during the game?
- Why does their teamwork help them win?

## AFTER READING

**Our Purpose:** “How did Jonas and Grace's differences help them win the basketball game? What did they learn about being small and tall?”

**Extending Our Thinking:** Ask students, “What are you good at? What is someone else good at that's different? How can your differences help you work together?” Encourage students to find a partner and think about what each person is good at, then draw or talk about how they could work together using their different strengths. Students can share their team ideas and celebrate different talents.

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- 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.