

January 11:

The Kutztown Area School District Equity Team is exploring what identity is. But what does that word even mean? Identity is what makes you who you are. Everyone is special. What makes you unique?

January 12:

Experiences help us define who we are and who we are not. Think back to an event or a time that helped you become who you are. An example would be: Do you remember when your brother or sister was born? Do you remember the first time you rode a bike without your training wheels? What about the first day of kindergarten? Identify an experience that shaped who you are. Describe this event or experience and then explain the impact it has had on how you answer the question, "Who am I?"

January 13:

Write or draw your answer to this question: Who are you?

January 14:

What food is a tradition at your house? Explain how this food is connected to the identity of your family.

January 15:

Think about all your toys at home. What toy defines who you are? Why?

January 18:

What is a special moment in your life that you are proud of? How did this moment shape who you are?

January 19: Let us reflect on the words written by Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. "Darkness cannot drive out darkness, only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate, only love can do that." What does that mean to you?

January 21:

Black mother, writer, poet, and civil rights activist Andre Lourde stated, "If I did not define myself for myself, I would be crunched into other people's fantasies for me." In what ways can you share your own unique identity today without letting others' expectations get in the way?

January 22:

We are grateful to Esmeralda Morales for sharing her voice. Esmeralda is a sophomore at Kutztown Area High School. She grew up in Honduras and moved to the United States in 2014. She wrote the poem, "The Place I Grew" in Mr. Tom Miller's Creative Writing elective:

The Place I Grew

The place I came from may be sad and poor to you.
For me, it is the open road before the tunnel.
The people, they laugh with a humble sincerity,
There might be a tear here and there,
But at the end of the evening, we laugh.
We chat between each other.
To you it might be your grandma's place,
Or your house, your best friend's house.
To me is a whole *barrio*
The people we hang out,
Outside our houses playing *futbol*
Or playing tag.
This "place" is a home to my happiness,
Playing *la cuerda* and *la cebolla*
Knocking on everyone's door to play
Asking for permission to go out and play.
And on the dark nights,
When lights were out because of a storm,
We sit in the dark with a candle
Telling stories of my dad's mom and
About my dad's mom's kids.
Or Christmas nights
Lights in the sky,
Pop boom pop boom boom pop!
Everywhere,
Music in every corner of the *barrio*

We celebrated together,
as though we were family.
Of course we all grew up together.
This is a story of a place and a thing
but also of a person,
Everywhere was a person holding my box of happiness.

January 25:

Latina-American and civil rights activist Sylvia Rivera stated, “We have to be visible. We should not be ashamed of who we are.” How are you going to be kind to yourself today?

January 27:

Today is International Holocaust Remembrance Day. Today is a day to remember the millions of lives lost due to hatred in the world. International Holocaust Day reminds us to never forget the lessons we learn from history and to stand on the side of kindness and love always.

January 29:

Screenwriter, producer, actress, and civil rights activist, Lena Waithe reminds us that “the things that make us different, those are our superpower.” What is your superpower that you are going to share with the world?