

# Book Discussion Questions

Note to educator: The questions are scaffolded to progress in complexity. You can choose the ones that work best for your learners and customize your discussion. This is just a starting point.

Sam was born with a cleft lip and palate which is part of what makes him unique. Encourage students to share something that makes them special or different, too.

Sam's family and friends helped him along the way. What are some words of encouragement you can use to share with someone you know having surgery?

Sam notices other characters in the story have a sparkle too. Can you think of one from the story and how you know they were brave?

Sam's medical challenges helped him grow and become stronger. Can you think of a challenge you have faced that helped you grow, too?

Sam had been missing school so why do you think he felt nervous to return?

How do the colors and images show the story's feeling or message?

There is a part of the story where Sam tries to use humor to hide his real feelings. How does a friend help with that?

Why do you think the author chose to name the school Beacon Elementary?

Describe what happened at the end of the story. Explain how the author and illustrator helped you figure that out.

## *Vocabulary Words to discuss:*

resilient  
brave  
unfazed  
wary  
beacon  
glint and gleam  
citrine  
craniofacial

