

## **Diversity Lesson – *The Path to the Sun***

Ask each student to choose the character with which he or she most identifies. (This can be done anonymously.) Make a list of all the chosen characters.

Ask the class, as a group, to list several identity attributes for each character listed. Make a point to choose attributes that clearly differentiate the characters. Then discuss how each of those attributes can be interpreted negatively. For instance, confidence interpreted as arrogance, leadership as bossiness, soft spoken as being timid.

Ask the class to identify times in the story when these characters were hurt or hindered by these negative perceptions. Then have the class speculate why these assumptions are made and where stereotypes come from. Discuss how these stereotypes are hurtful and impact social diversity.

Follow up activity:

1. Of those identity attributes listed for your chosen character, choose one with which you are especially proud to identify and explain why.
2. Share a story about a time you felt like an outsider or like you weren't accepted due to negative perceptions.
3. Name a stereotype associated with that attribute that is not consistent with who you are.
4. Have you ever made fun of someone — or witnessed others doing so — because of an identity trait? Describe the experience.
5. What situations can you think of that force or encourage people to give up or conceal parts of their identity? Explain.