



Embracing Diversity: A Journey with "Phoenix Gets Greater"



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This workshop is created for children aged 4+

Join us for a thought-provoking and heartwarming workshop with the talented author of "Phoenix Gets Greater," a captivating story that explores the journey of a two-spirit child. This pre-recorded video workshop invites participants of all ages to delve into themes of acceptance, love, and understanding as we navigate the rich landscape of pre-colonial gender identities.

This workshop includes a reading of Phoenix Gets Greater by the author, Marty Wilson-Trudeau. Please note that after August, 2024 we will be removing the read-along of the story due to copyright limitations. We also want to encourage educators to purchase this book for their classrooms. Marty will take a deeper dive into some of the topics within the story and how we can all celebrate one other's uniqueness and diversity.



This is a powerful story about the importance of family acceptance. Phoenix loves to play with dolls and marvel at pretty fabrics. Most of all, he loves to dance—ballet, powwow, or just swirling and twirling around his house. Sometimes Phoenix gets picked on and he struggles with feeling different, but his mom and brother are proud of him. With his family's help, Phoenix learns about two-spirit/Niizh Manidoowag people in Anishinaabe culture and just how special he is.

Based on the childhood experiences of her son, Phoenix, Marty Wilson-Trudeau demonstrates the difference that a loving and supportive family can make.

[Available anywhere books are sold.](#)



We hope you enjoyed your time with Marty and their story! Marty speaks about two-spirit people and living as your authentic self.

Two-spirit is an Indigenous gender identity. Marty speaks about how they were revered and sacred to her people. Phoenix is a two-spirit person and because of this he was treated differently than other kids and people were often mean to him because of what he liked. People were mean to him because he wasn't the same as the other boys in his class, he was different.

Phoenix has both a boy and a girl spirit and that makes him extra special because he can think and feel like both boys and girls, and his community has great respect for two-spirit people like Phoenix. Phoenix learned on his journey that being different was okay, in fact, it was sacred. We are all sacred, in everything that we are.

Phoenix experienced a lot of feelings of being unwelcome or disliked. As a class create a list of things you can do to make people feel welcome in your classroom.

We are welcoming when we....



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Create a drawing of yourself on the person below! Put in things that make you unique! How you like your hair to look, your favorite outfit, and everything that makes you YOU! Then, around your portrait draw the things that make you YOU that no one can see at first glance. This could be your favorite hobbies, or favorite animal, the toys you like to play with and the foods you love to eat. Everyone is one of a kind, unique and sacred - just like your artwork will be!

