

**Big by Vashti Harrison****CHOICE<sup>IN</sup>LITERACY**  
Book Guide**SOME NOTES ABOUT QUESTIONS**

This is meant to serve as a menu; you are not expected to ask every question on the list. Use what you have time for, what interests you the most, or what best connects to your instructional goals. The questions generally go in order, so they could be asked as you read. You may wish to limit yourself to 2-4 questions during a first reading of the text and plan to revisit the text to dig more deeply with further questions.

With a quiet group it may help to prompt students to point to the page instead of speaking to provide an alternate means of engaging with the text.

Questions to Get the Conversation Started	Questions to Nudge a Quiet Group	Questions to Dig Deeper
<b>*Details to notice that may (or may not) come up in conversation*</b> <b>Looking closely at the front and back covers:</b> Ballerina outfit Holding the letter "I" in the title <i>Big</i> Same ballet position as the dancer on the poster Flowers on the poster		
What do you notice about the protagonist (main character)?	What is the protagonist wearing?  What else is on the cover around the protagonist?	What might happen in her story?  What might she want or need?
<b>Looking closely at the hardcover design (beneath the book jacket):</b> Wraparound design containing positive words in pink ink <i>Big</i> is one of the positive words.		
What do you notice about these words?	Are these words positive or negative?	What about the word "big"?
<b>Looking closely at the endpapers:</b> Within the looped lines, the words <i>love you</i> are sort of hidden.		
What do you notice about this design?	Why do you think the author/illustrator placed the words "love you" on the endpapers?	What do you think the words have to do with the protagonist?

**Big by Vashti Harrison****CHOICE<sup>IN</sup>LITERACY**  
Book Guide**Questions to Get the Conversation Started****Questions to Nudge a Quiet Group****Questions to Dig Deeper****\*Details to notice that may (or may not) come up in conversation\*****While reading the text block:**

Intraiconic text shows positive words in pink/purple and negative words in brown/black.

The protagonist's size on the page and in relationship to other characters is exaggerated to emphasize how she feels.

The color of the protagonist's outfit changes as her emotions change.

The apologetic girl at the end is hiding part of her negative words compared to the others.

How is the protagonist changing?

What do you notice about the way the protagonist looks compared to the other characters? Why do you think the author chose to show her that way?

How do the colors help show what the protagonist is feeling?

What do you notice about the way other characters react to the protagonist?

What connection can you make between the scene when her outfit is being painted gray and the back cover of the book?

Why do you think the pink words are swirling around her?

Why do you think the other characters aren't in color like the protagonist?

What do you notice about the protagonist's speech compared to the words the other kids are saying?

Why do you think the adult's words look the way they do?

Why do you think the author/illustrator put words on her skin in the mirror image?

What do you notice about the words she is holding in each hand?

Why do you think some words are pink and some are black?

How does the author/illustrator show us the protagonist is changing?

What do you think the author/illustrator wants you to think about yourself as a result of sharing this story?

What do you think the author/illustrator wants you to do when interacting with others as a result of sharing this story?

**After reading the story:**

Author's note explains the author's message and some personal experience that inspired the book.

Was the change the protagonist went through in *Big* a positive change or a negative change? Explain.

Which illustration in the book did you like best? Why?

Choose a character and explain what would have happened if they had done something differently.