

# Storytime Activity Guide

*Julian is a Mermaid*

by Jessica Love

On a ride home with his abuela, Julian sees mermaids and imagines himself as a mermaid swimming in the ocean. At home, Julian figures out how to turn himself into a mermaid. When Julian's abuela sees him, she knows just what to do—take Julian to the mermaid parade!

## Did you know?

In *Julian is a Mermaid*, his abuela is supportive of Julian's desire to be a mermaid. Getting along with others, recognizing feelings, and expressing feelings appropriately are all part of **Social-Emotional Understanding**.

## Talk about it!

- Julian imagines he is a mermaid. If you could transform into anything, what would it be?
- When Abuela comes out of the bath and sees Julian's mermaid costume, how does her face look? How did you think she was going to react?
- Was your prediction correct? What did she end up doing? How do you think she feels about Julian's mermaid costume?

## Play: (activity with no materials)

Dress up and make believe are natural ways for children to try on different roles and practice different points of view.

1. Find fun dress up items in your house and play. Clothes are great, and so are other items like towels, scarves, jewelry, and even cardboard boxes!
2. When children dress up, encourage them to "play the role." Ask them questions about how their character might think and act.

## Find More Online

Scan this QR code to find book recommendations, online activity guides, and other fun resources.



[qrcode/learnathome](https://qrcode/learnathome)

Scan this QR code with your phone's camera to see our Read Aloud of this book!



[qrcode/JulianMermaid](https://qrcode/JulianMermaid)

## Create!

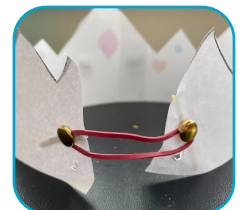
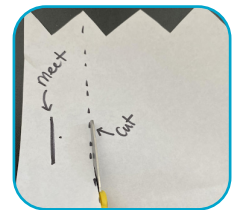
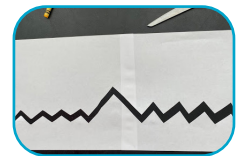
### Materials needed:

- Scissors
- Tape or glue stick
- Writing utensil
- 2 blank pieces of paper
- Decorations like stickers, gems, feathers, ribbons, pom-poms, etc.
- 2 brads
- 1 rubber band
- *Optional:* old book covers, magazines, or construction paper

Use a magazine or old book covers to design and create a crown. Encourage your child to play make believe and try out a new role while wearing their crown.

*Ask: How do they feel wearing this crown? What does a ruler think about?*

1. Tape or glue together 2 blank pieces of paper, horizontally. If you are using glue, overlap the paper by about one inch so that there's room for enough glue to hold the paper together.
2. Draw and then cut out the top design of the crown—it can be a zig zag shape or any shape you want!
3. Wrap the paper crown around your child's head. You will want a 1-2 inch gap in the back of the crown. If you need to cut excess paper, mark where the ends meet, then take the crown off and cut an inch in from each mark.
4. Decorate the crown with any fun items you have!  
*Optional:* For a more colorful crown, use the template to cut out the design on an old book cover, magazine, or construction paper.
5. Help your child to secure the back of the crown by inserting two brads in the back edges of the crown. Then, loop a rubber band between the two brads.
6. Place the crown on your child and have fun!



*Want more?* What other fun dress up props can you create with paper? How would you make a wand, a shield, a necklace, or a hat?