Crafting a Self-Portrait

In this story, Marisol McDonald has orange-red hair and nut-brown skin. Polka dots and stripes are one of her favorite clothing combinations to wear. She prefers peanut butter and jelly burritos in her lunch box. To Marisol, these seemingly mismatched things make perfect sense together. When others are confused by Marisol and try to get her to conform, she realizes she has to be true to herself. As you read or listen to the story with your child, pay attention to why Marisol decides to try matching one day, and how that makes her feel.

Let’s Talk About New Words

Here are some words to talk about as you read or listen to Marisol McDonald Doesn’t Match:

- **clash**, things that look bad or ugly together
- **match**, things that look good together
- **scrunch**, to squeeze your face or nose up
- **unique**, someone that is unlike anyone else
- **discouraged**, to feel like you can’t do something you want to do
- **proud**, to feel happy because of something you’ve done or who you are

Let’s Play

Create a Self-Portrait

In the story, Marisol McDonald has orange-red hair and nut-brown skin. Encourage your child to look at their reflection in a mirror and describe what they see. Focus on specific features that your child might recognize such as hair color or eye color. Comment about your child’s expression, and what they might be feeling. Let your child experiment with making different faces to show different emotions in the mirror. Explain that a portrait is a picture of a person, and that children can make a picture of themselves based on what they see in the mirror. Invite your child to make a self-portrait using whatever craft materials you have on hand. Describe what your child is doing as they create. For example, “I see you are using the brown yarn to make your long, wavy hair. I wonder what you will use for your eyes and ears.”