

Tristy Sparkles is sure her favorite teacher shares the same love of all things that sparkle until Mrs. Ellison encourages her to look at sparkle another way. Mrs. Ellison suggests that sparkle is more than the shimmer and shine seen on clothing and the stars she gives students. Together the two discuss the sparkle that comes from love, empathy and kindness, recalling family, friends and the students in their inclusive/diverse classroom. Tristy recognizes her teacher, Connor, Abbey-Peyton and others, whose empathy and kindness are stunning examples. Tristy Sparkles comes to understand what her teacher really means by saying, “the world needs more sparkle,” when she hands out stars.

Our sparkle (love, empathy, kindness) is what connects us all. Together, we are a beautifully, brilliantly, luminous, human family. The world needs more love, empathy and kindness to continue to sustain our connection. Our sparkle allows us to continue to connect with all people since we have a shared humanity. There is such beauty and vibrancy in our oneness. The light and shine that is created through our collective sparkle impacts our world in the most profoundly divine way.

“SissyMarySue’s amazing ability to understand children’s unique personalities really shines through in this endearing children’s book, creating a truly special story that transcends gender and age. This is a beautiful story that parents will enjoy reading with their children. At the same time, it is an amazing book for the classroom; helping children as they learn to understand empathy and inclusion. SissyMarySue deserves her own sparkly star!”

Sharon Hanifl-Lee, Board Chair, Children’s Performing Arts, White Bear Lake, Minnesota

“SissyMarySue has an incredible gift for writing stories that both delight children and give them long-lasting lessons to guide their lives. Her story will live forever in their minds!”

Jenny Edwards, PhD, Professor, Fielding Graduate University

“The importance of recognizing and showing love, kindness, and empathy with others as it is presented in this beautiful book is told in a way that will connect with both girls and boys. Share it with the children in your life and watch them sparkle.”

Shannon Lembke, Writer, Mother, Boulder, Colorado