

PAYDEN'S PRONOUN PARTY

written by **Blue Jaryn**

illustrated by **Xochitl Cornejo**

published by **Page Street Kids**

Activity Guide

"I'm not sure I'm a boy . . . so maybe *he* is not best for me."

Payden has always used he/him pronouns, until one day Payden realizes those words might not fit. Payden's parents promise to throw a big party to introduce whatever pronouns Payden chooses—but which pronouns are the best match?

On a colorful quest, Payden talks to friends about a rainbow of possibilities: he, she, they, ze, and so many more! The right pronouns are just waiting to be tried on.

Put on your party hats and learn about the magical variety of pronouns in this thoughtful story that imagines a world of unquestioning support for gender exploration, celebrates all the different ways a person can present, and provides a blueprint for people of any age who are pondering what gender means to them.

Blue Jaryn is a writer, illustrator and freelance editor. They write to tell the kind of stories they wished they had growing up, and they hope their writing helps kids who experience negativity for being "different." Payden's journey was inspired by Blue's own exploration of gender and what pronouns fit best. They live in Melbourne, Australia with their partner and Jack Russell terrier, Nyla. This is their debut picture book.

Xochitl Cornejo is a motion graphics designer, illustrator, animator, and background painter. They are nonbinary and hope that readers can use their art to see and be comforted by the fact that there are many ways to exist in the world and present to others. Xochitl lives in Honolulu, Hawaii, where they like befriending the neighborhood cats. This is their debut picture book.

Character Exploration

In the story, Dr. Hank (**He/Him**) is a veterinarian! Do you have a pet or a favorite animal? Can you use the lines below to describe them?



Character Exploration

Shay (**She/Her**) is an acrobatic artist! Draw a rainbow in the space below:



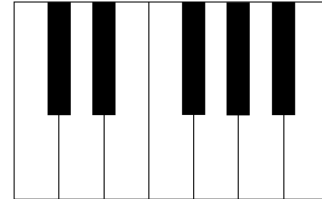
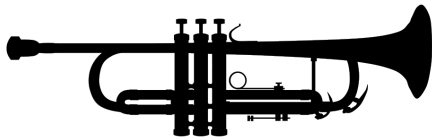
Can you draw a line from each rainbow color to its matching word below?

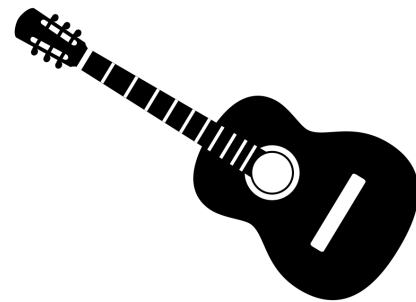
RED ORANGE YELLOW GREEN BLUE VIOLET PINK



Character Exploration

Theo (**They/Them**) invented a musical instrument! Can you circle the trumpet and write the names of the other instruments on the lines below?





What sound do trumpets make?

Character Exploration

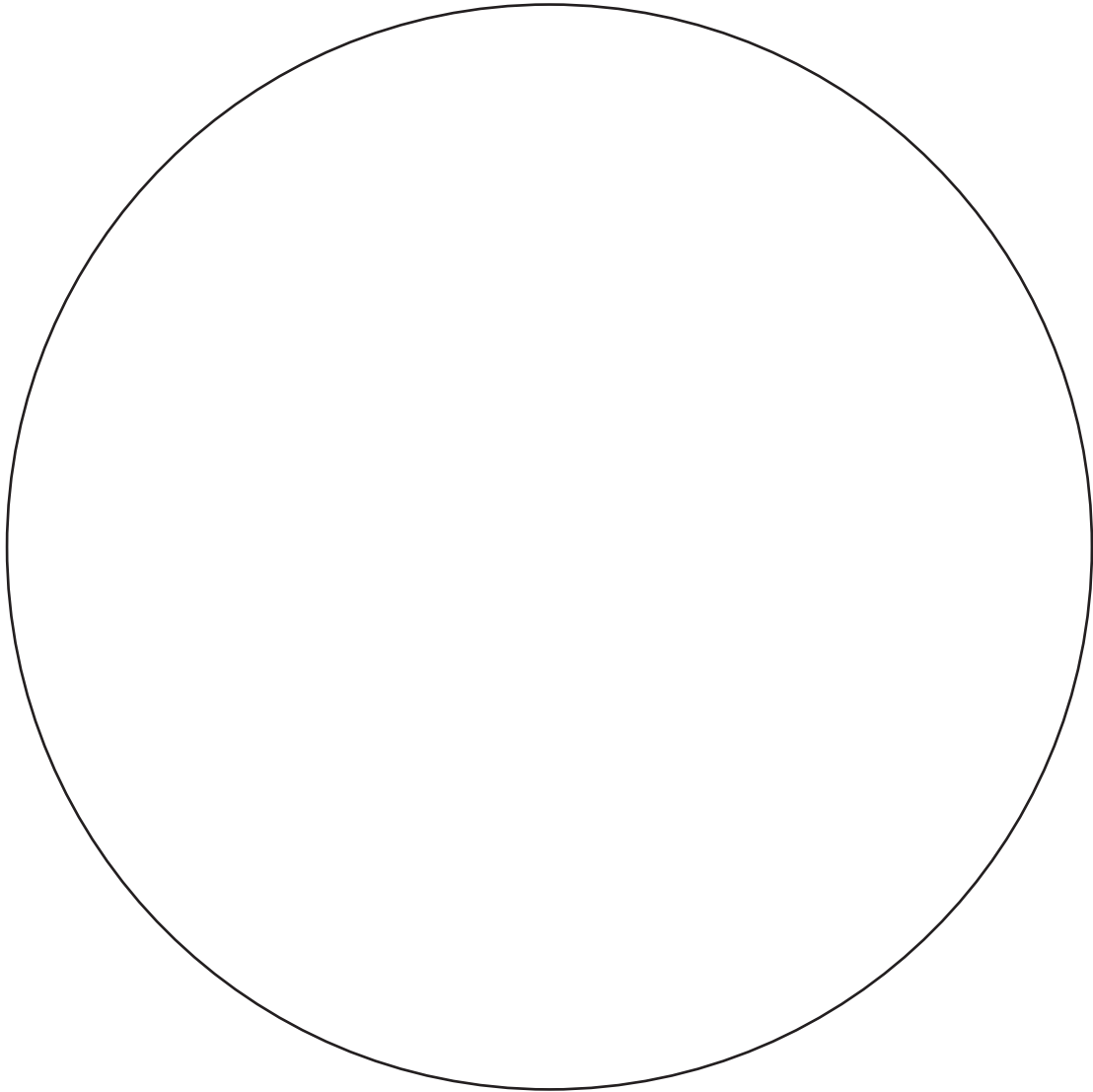
Zoe (**Ze/Zir**) likes to dance! Let's take a few minutes to move our bodies.
Can you create your own new kind of dancing?



What is your favorite song to dance to?

Create Your Own Pronoun Badge

Decorate the space below and write the pronouns
that feel just right for you!



THEY/THEM SHE/HER HE/HIM ZE/ZIM
ZIE/ZIM SIE/SIE EY/EM VE/VER TEY/TER
IE/EM PER/PER XE/XEM (F)AE/(F)AER

Party Time!

All of Payden's friends arrive wearing creative and colorful costumes. And pronoun badges too. Using the space below, draw a picture of yourself in a creative and colorful costume!

