



Tips for Readers

The goal of this event is to create an environment for dialogues and perspective sharing to challenge stereotypes and foster understanding of people whose experiences may be different from your own. Human Books volunteer to be “borrowed” for a “reading”—a conversation, dialogue about their individual experiences.

This is intended to be a beneficial experience for both Readers and Human Books. Remember that the Books are courageous volunteers and the borrowing is based on mutual respect.

- Return the Books in the same mental and physical condition in which they were borrowed.
- The Books or the Readers can decide to end the loan.
- Please exit or silence any non-Zoom applications.
- Please make sure your microphone is muted before/upon entering the reading session/breakout room.
- Demonstrate respect in verbal and nonverbal communications with the Books.
- Practice listening, not hearing or defending, when presented with different viewpoints or identities.
- Ask questions to learn about the Books’ experiences. For sample questions to help you get started, please view the next page.

Potential Questions to Help You Get Started

- What is a typical day like for you?
- What assumptions do you feel people make about you and others who share this identity?
- How has this identity affected you in your personal and professional life?
- What are some obstacles you have faced because of this identity?
- What are some of the most rewarding experiences you have had because of this identity?
- If there was one thing you could change about how people relate to this identity, what would it be?
- Is there a community or support system that exists around this identity; if so what do you enjoy most about it?
- Do you think people with this identity are realistically represented in movies, music, books, and news stories?