Sexuality Education Themes in Elementary Cycle Three ESL
Identity, Gender Stereotypes and Roles, and Social Norms

**Learning Goal:**
Discuss the role that you can play in respecting sexual diversity and differences.

**Ruby’s Wish**
Shirin Yim Bridges

In China, at a time when few girls are taught to read or write, Ruby dreams of going to university with her brothers and male cousins.

**The Invisible Boy**
Trudy Ludwig

Brian has always felt invisible at school, but when a new student, Justin, arrives, things start to change for the better.

**Small Saul**
Ashley Spires

Small Saul is a different kind of pirate. He needs to prove his worth as a pirate; otherwise he will be thrown overboard!

**William’s Doll**
Charlotte Zolotow

More than anything, William wants a doll. He enjoys the other toys his father gives him, like a basketball and a train set, but he still wants a doll. William's grandmother is the one who really understand his wish.

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**Sample Questions to Guide Discussion:**
- Discuss how the characters support differences and fight stereotypes.
- How do the characters in the stories find happiness while challenging gender stereotypes?
- How do the characters gain each other's respect?

**Sample Activities to Complement Discussion:**
- Find other examples of people who have challenged gender stereotypes or differences.
- Create a poster to explain how one of these people challenged gender stereotypes or differences.

**Suggested Keywords:** gender roles, stereotypes, individuality, deconstructing stereotypes

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