Some people don’t know what to make of Marisol—can’t she just be one or the other? Try as she might, in a world where everyone tries to put this biracial, Peruvian-Scottish-American girl into a box, Marisol McDonald doesn’t match. And that’s just fine with her.
We all are a combination of our ancestors’ heritage. Marisol is a Peruvian-Scottish-American. From where did your ancestors come? On a large world map, have each person mark with post-its the countries where each person’s family originated.

Marisol is a bilingual, artistic soccer player. We all have many parts to our personality. Use the jigsaw puzzle template (page 3) to create an illustrated puzzle of the different parts that make you YOU. What are your favorite foods? Favorite hobbies? Favorite color? Do you have any pets? What job would you like to do when you are older? Illustrate each puzzle piece with one thing that makes you who you are, then carefully cut out the pieces. Place the jigsaw puzzle pieces in an envelope labeled with your name. Exchange your puzzle envelope with a partner and assemble each other’s puzzles. Once the puzzles are assembled discuss what each partner has in common and what makes each person in the partnership different.

Marisol’s favorite school subject is art. She loves to draw unique pictures that surprise her friends. Participate in a unique art lesson where everyone follows the same directions in their own way. Each person will need a white 12” x 18” piece of art paper and some markers or crayons. Directions:

- Draw four straight lines from one side of the paper to the other.
- Draw five circles anywhere on the paper.
- Draw one curved line that starts at one edge of the paper and ends somewhere in the middle of the paper.
- Color in two of the circles.
- Fill in three areas of the paper by drawing squiggles, geometric shapes, or whatever you like.

Once the unique designs are completed, display them and discuss how they are the same and how they are different. Notice that each piece is unique to the individual artist even though everyone received the same directions.

Marisol is fond of her peanut butter and jelly burrito even though her friends tell her that those ingredients don’t match. What special food is shared at your family meals, celebrations, or holidays? Fill out the recipe card (page 4) with your special family recipe. Have everyone bring their dishes for a class potluck comida!

Marisol is proud of her heritage as a Peruvian-Scottish-American. One of the ways in which Marisol expresses her pride is by wearing her favorite hat—the one her abuelita brought her from Peru. Look at the illustration of Marisol wearing her Peruvian hat right before her family goes to pick out a new puppy. Notice that the hat is brightly colored and filled with geometric designs. The geometric designs are inspired by the Inca, the indigenous people of Peru, who fashioned beautiful textiles with repeating geometric patterns. Create your own Inca-inspired headband by folding a 12” x 18” piece of construction paper in half lengthwise. Use colored markers to create a geometric design that repeats the length of the headband. Inca textiles were intricate and detailed; layer shapes by drawing smaller shapes inside of larger shapes and include a patterned border. Use a hole punch to make holes at either end of the headband. Place a paper brad in each hole. Use a rubber band to stretch between the two paper brads to customize the fit of your headband.

The activities in this kit were created by Leigh Courtney, Ph.D. She teaches first and second grade in the Global Education program at a public elementary school in San Diego, California. She holds both master’s and doctoral degrees in education, with an emphasis on curriculum and instruction.
The Pieces of YOU

Decorate each puzzle piece with one unique aspect of you!
A Unique Family Recipe

From the kitchen of ________________________________

Ingredients: ___________________________________

__________________________________________________

__________________________________________________

__________________________________________________

__________________________________________________

__________________________________________________

How to prepare the dish:

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

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________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

This dish is special to my family because __________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________
Match the Spanish words in the word box below with the descriptions of events in the story. Write the English word on the line spaces; fill in the letter boxes with the corresponding Spanish word from the word box. Use the Spanish and English versions of the story on each page of the book to help you.

Matching English and Spanish Words from the Story

Marisol’s friend says that Marisol’s hair is the color of this vegetable.

The ingredient that Marisol eats with her peanut butter and tortillas.

The type of pet Marisol wants.

Marisol’s favorite subject in school.

The color of one of her new pet’s eyes.

The color of the other eye.

The name Marisol gave her new pet.

EXAMPLE: A four-legged animal that meows and purrs:

c a t g a t o
Marisol McDonald Paper Doll

Print this page on card stock using a color printer. Then carefully cut out Marisol.
Mix and match Marisol's outfits

Print this page on card stock using a color printer. Then carefully cut out Marisol's clothes.
Color your own outfits for Marisol

Print this page on card stock. Color, then carefully cut out Marisol’s clothes.