Missed Cues
A Reflective Activity

Developed by Debbie Bambino.

This activity might be used as an intro to giving/receiving feedback, unpacking assumptions or LASW.

The following selection is from *Pictures of Hollis Woods* by Patricia Reilly Giff.

*This picture has a dollop of peanut butter on one edge, a smear of grape jelly on the other, and an X across the whole thing. I cut it out of a magazine for homework when I was six years old. “Look for words that begin with W,” my teacher, Mrs. Evans, had said.*

*She was the one who marked in the X, spoiling my picture. She pointed. “This is a picture of a family, Hollis. A mother, M, a father, F, a brother, B, a sister, S. They’re standing in front of their house, H. I don’t see one W word here.”*

*I opened my mouth to say: How about W for wish, or W for want, or W for “Wouldn’t it be lovely,” like the song the music teacher had taught us?*

*But Mrs. Evans was at the next table by that time, shushing me over her shoulder.*

• Please read the excerpt and jot down your first impressions of the teacher and student. (2 minute quick write)

• Have you ever been so rushed that you missed an opportunity to unpack a student’s “wrong” answer? Briefly describe the circumstances. (2 minutes)

• How might our collaboration help us read our student’s cues accurately in order to support their learning and development? (5 minutes)

• Pair-Share (10 minutes)

• Debrief as a group (12-15 minutes)