

Identity Symbol

Ask a few significant people in your child's life to write a letter or card to them with the purpose of telling your child what they see in him/her. Use the questions below to give to the individuals writing cards as a guide.

Parents, take these letters/cards and see if there is a similar thread running through all of them that can guide you in choosing an identity symbol for your child. For instance, if people say your child exhibits wisdom or intelligence, the identity symbol could be an owl. If your child puts a ton of time, energy and persistence into a certain sport, maybe a new piece of sports equipment could be the symbol. Use your imagination as you read the letters, then choose what the symbol will be. Make it, buy it, engrave it, choose to make this as elaborate as you'd like. The idea is to make this symbol very individualized, something that is extremely unique to your child. Here are a few other ideas to get your creative juices flowing:

- **Wise/intelligent-owl, set of books**
- **Athletic-sports equipment**
- **Kind/compassionate-leather bracelet embossed with words, heart**
- **Good friend-framed picture of friends**
- **Fun to be around-smiley face jewelry, joke book that friends/family sign**

- **Creative-art set, personalized stationary, camera**
- **Great at technology-new device, program for computer**
- **Thoughtful-journal**

Set aside a time to present your child with the letters/cards and identity symbol. Read the cards with him/her. Give your child the identity symbol and explain the reason you chose this symbol. You can refer to the Identity Symbol script to guide this presentation. Rites of Passage Identity Symbol

Question Guide for letters

I'm asking you to write a letter or card to my child as a final piece to a rites of passage experience I'm doing with them. I'm asking you to contribute because you know my child well, and he/she looks up to you a great deal. It would mean a lot to me if you could take a minute to write him/her a letter or card and include the answers to some of the following questions:

1. ***What character traits do you see my child exhibiting?***
2. ***What do you see my child being passionate about?***
3. ***What are my child's talents?***
4. ***What makes my child unique?***

Identity Symbol Presentation Script

I've enjoyed studying with you about identity and figuring out WHO you are. We've asked a few people who know you best to write a letter to you telling about the kind of person that you are and what they see in you. Let's read those letters...

(read the letters together)

You can see through all these that one big idea keeps coming up and that is X. We want you to have a symbol that will remind you that X is what people see in you.

(present the symbol)

We are proud to know that God has created you with a purpose, He has big plans for you, and He has created you to be uniquely you. Our prayer is that you'll see all the ways that you're different as HOW God created you.

You have been uniquely created to complete God's purpose for you.

As you grow up, you'll continue to realize your differences and God's purpose for you. As you do, we hope you'll follow His path for you because He has created you to be X (attribute associated with identity symbol).