

Author's Note



I TRULY BELIEVE THAT PICTURE BOOKS CAN CHANGE THE WORLD. PICTURE BOOKS HAVE THE ABILITY TO CAPTURE BIG IDEAS AND IMPORTANT ISSUES AND DELIVER THEM TO CHILDREN IN A WAY THAT FEELS SAFE AND MAKES SENSE. WHENEVER I WANT TO TEACH MY SONS OR STUDENTS A VALUABLE LESSON, I TURN TO A PICTURE BOOK! I REMEMBER HAVING TO HAVE UNCOMFORTABLE, BUT EMPOWERING, CONVERSATIONS ABOUT RACE AND RACISM WITH MY FAMILY WHEN I WAS YOUNGER. I HAD TO LEARN HOW TO SPOT IT AND WHAT TO DO IN THE MOMENT. I ALSO HAD TO LEARN THAT NOTHING WAS WRONG WITH MY SKIN. I DIDN'T NEED TO CHANGE- OTHER PEOPLE'S THINKING DID. AS AN EDUCATOR, I FELT HONORED TO HAVE SIMILAR CONVERSATIONS WITH MY STUDENTS. WE DISCUSSED WHAT RACISM IS AND WHAT TO DO IF THEY EXPERIENCED IT PERSONALLY OR SAW IT HAPPEN. AS A PARENT, I'VE HAD TO HAVE CONVERSATIONS, JUST LIKE THE ONE FOUND IN MY BOOK, WITH MY OWN SON. I'VE FELT PRIDE IN REMINDING HIM OF THE BEAUTY OF HIS AMAZING AND TRAILBLAZING SKIN.



About the Book

MICAH LOVES TO ASK QUESTIONS. ONE DAY HE ASKS HIS MOTHER A SERIOUS QUESTION ABOUT SKIN COLOR. MICAH GETS AN IMPORTANT REMINDER FROM HIS MOM THAT NO MATTER WHAT THE WORLD OR PEOPLE MIGHT SAY, HIS SKIN IS AMAZING AND TRAILBLAZING.

About the Author

NAOMI IS A WIFE, MOM, AUTHOR, CREATOR, PRESENTER, AND EDUCATOR WHO CURRENTLY LIVES IN LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA. SHE ENJOYS USING HER CREATIVE SKILLS TO TEACH STUDENTS HOW TO READ AND HELP CAREGIVERS AND OTHER EDUCATORS TEACH IMPORTANT LESSONS TO THEIR STUDENTS.



About the Illustrator

YAYIRA DZAMESI IS AN AFRICAN AMERICAN ENGINEER-ILLUSTRATOR WHO LOVES ALL THINGS COFFEE. SHE CURRENTLY LIVES IN NORTH CAROLINA WORKING FOR IBM AS A TECHNICAL SUPPORT ENGINEER. IN HER FREE TIME, SHE ILLUSTRATES FOR CLIENTS AS WELL AS FOR HER OWN CREATIVE PROJECTS.

YOU CAN FIND MORE ABOUT HER AND WHAT SHE'S WORKING ON AT HER WEBSITE YAYIRADZAMESI.COM



Background Knowledge

DID YOU KNOW THAT EVEN THOUGH ALL PEOPLE ARE EQUAL, EVERYONE ISN'T ALWAYS TREATED THAT WAY? MANY BLACK AND BROWN PEOPLE HAVE TO DEAL WITH SOMETHING CALLED RACISM. THEY HAVE TO DEAL WITH PEOPLE DOING BAD THINGS TO THEM OR SAYING HURTFUL THINGS ABOUT THEM BECAUSE OTHER PEOPLE ARE JUDGING THEM BY THEIR SKIN COLOR. IT'S WRONG AND IT SHOULDN'T HAPPEN, BUT SOMETIMES IT DOES.

SOME BLACK AND BROWN PEOPLE HAVEN'T HEARD ANYTHING BAD BEING SAID ABOUT THEIR SKIN COLOR, BUT THEY MIGHT FEEL UPSET WHEN THEY DON'T SEE THEMSELVES REPRESENTED ANYWHERE. SOME HAVE SAID WHEN THEY GO TO THE STORE, MOST OF THE TOYS HAVE WHITE SKIN. WHEN THEY WATCH TV SHOWS, MOST OF THE CHARACTERS HAVE WHITE SKIN. AND WHEN THEY LEARN LESSONS AT SCHOOL, MOST OF THE PEOPLE THEY LEARN ABOUT HAVE WHITE SKIN. THEY DON'T SEE THEMSELVES BEING REPRESENTED, OR SHOWN. NOT HAVING REPRESENTATION OF THEIR SKIN COLOR CAN FEEL HURTFUL AND MAKE THEM FEEL LEFT OUT. DO YOU FEEL LIKE YOU GET TO SEE YOURSELF REPRESENTED?

Questions to Discuss

WHY DO YOU THINK MICAH'S MOM ALWAYS TRIED TO ANSWERED HONESTLY?

WHY DID MICAH WANT TO KNOW WHICH SKIN COLOR WAS THE BEST SKIN COLOR?

DO YOU THINK IT'S IMPORTANT TO SEE YOURSELF REPRESENTED? WHY?

MICAH FELT LIKE CHANGING. DO YOU THINK THAT WAS A GOOD SOLUTION?

WHY DID MICAH SIT UP TALLER AND PUFF HIS CHEST OUT? HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT THAT?

WHAT DO YOU THINK MICAH WILL SAY IF ANYONE SAYS ANYTHING BAD ABOUT HIS SKIN AGAIN?

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS



All About Skin

- MELANIN IS A PIGMENT IN YOUR SKIN THAT GIVES YOU YOUR SPECIAL COLOR. THE MORE MELANIN YOU HAVE, THE DARKER YOUR SKIN WILL BE.
- YOU CAN NOT TELL IF SOMEONE WILL BE A GOOD FRIEND OR NOT JUST BY LOOKING AT THEIR SKIN.
- YOUR SKIN IS THE LARGEST ORGAN IN YOUR BODY.
- THE THICKEST SKIN IS ON YOUR FEET. THE THINNEST SKIN IS ON YOUR EYELIDS.
- YOUR SKIN HAS 3 DIFFERENT LAYERS.
- YOU CAN NOT TELL IF SOMEONE IS GOING TO BE NICE OR MEAN JUST BY LOOKING AT THEIR SKIN.
- A SCAB FORMS TO PROTECT YOU AFTER YOUR SKIN HAS BEEN DAMAGED.



Connection Activities

ACTIVITY #1

READ BOOKS
THAT HIGHLIGHT
DIVERSITY OF
COLOR. POINT IT
OUT AND
CELEBRATE IT.

ACTIVITY #2

MIX PAINT TO
MATCH YOUR
SKIN COLOR AND
PAINT A PICTURE
OF YOURSELF.

ACTIVITY #3

DISCUSS ALL OF
THE AMAZING
THINGS OUR
SKIN DOES FOR
OUR BODIES.

ACTIVITY #4

HAVE EVERYONE
IN THE ROOM
EXCHANGE
UPLIFTING
COMPLIMENTS.

ACTIVITY #5

TEACH ABOUT
MELANIN AND
EXPLAIN THE
REASON PEOPLE
HAVE DIFFERENT
SKIN COLORS.

ACTIVITY #6

HAVE AN HONEST
DISCUSSION. EVEN
THOUGH WE ARE ALL
THE SAME ON THE
INSIDE, SOME PEOPLE
EXPERIENCE RACISM
BECAUSE OF HOW THEY
LOOK ON THE OUTSIDE.

ACTIVITY #7

GIVE STUDENTS A
PICTURE TO COLOR
AND REMIND THEM
TO USE DIFFERENT
SKIN TONES FOR
REPRESENTATION.

ACTIVITY #8

PRACTICE WHAT TO
SAY IF ANYONE
SAYS ANYTHING
MEAN ABOUT YOUR
SKIN COLOR OR
ABOUT SOMEONE
ELSE.

ACTIVITY #9

CREATE
AFFIRMATIONS
ABOUT YOUR
SKIN.
MY SKIN IS...





What do you Love About Your Skin?



ILLUSTRATE A PICTURE OF YOU!





What Might Happen Next in the Story?

ILLUSTRATE YOUR IDEA!





What Lesson Did the Author Want Us to Learn?

ILLUSTRATE YOUR IDEA!

