

Children's Books to Explore Celebrating Our Uniqueness

1. Whoever You Are by Mem Fox.. It has a message for children about how even though everyone is different in their looks, beliefs, cultures, etc., we are so similar too because we all experience joy, laughs and love.
2. Different is Awesome by Ryan Haack. Ryan wrote this story about himself, to help teach children that even though he was born with his left hand missing, he can still do just about anything everyone else can do to – he just may do it a little bit differently. But in his book, he helps readers to realize that we're all different from each other and being different is awesome!
3. The Colors of Us by Karen Katz. A mother points out to her little girl how many different shades of brown there are while she is painting herself, and the girl then notices how beautiful and unique everyone's skin color is, comparing them all to foods like cinnamon, chocolate and peaches. Connor really related to the little girl mixing different paint colors, because he loves to paint, and we then talked about how even in our own little family, we all have different colors of skin...and he thought that was pretty neat
4. Little Quack's New Friend by Lauren Thompson. A group of sibling ducks is hesitant to play with a frog because he is so different. But they soon discover that they all have fun together, and that's what really matters.
5. Chrysanthemum by Kevin Henkes. It tells the story of a mouse named Chrysanthemum who loves her unique name...until her classmates begin to make fun of it. In the end, you'll get to see how she learns to love her name again.
6. Not Your Typical Dragon by Dan Bar-el. A little dragon discovers he can't breathe fire like all the other dragons, though he can breathe bubbles and other silly things. At first, he and his family are embarrassed, but in the end, they all realize how special he really is.
7. You Be You by Linda Kranz. While out swimming one day, a little fish realizes how different all of the fish are...and how those differences make the world a much more beautiful place!
8. Ballerino Nate by Kimberly Bradley. It's a book with a fantastic that opens up a lot of opportunities to point out that boys and girls are all interested in different activities – and that's a good thing. Nate wants to dance ballet, because he likes it, but his brother makes fun of him. In the end, he feels confident in himself to keep doing what he loves

9. Exclamation Mark by Amy Krouse Rosenthal. This is a simple story with a message about an exclamation mark who tries to fit in with his period friends, but realizes he was made to stand out. It's a little silly too.
10. Suki's Kimono by Chieri Uegaki. This is a story about a little girl who wants to wear her kimono to the first day of school because she is so proud of her heritage. Her sisters are embarrassed by this, but in the end, Suki has pride and confidence in who she is and what she likes...and all of the children in her class really appreciate her unique wardrobe.
11. Sit-In: How Four Friends Stood Up by Sitting Down by Andrea Davis Pinkney "It was February 1, 1960. They didn't need menus. Their order was simple. A doughnut and coffee, with cream on the side." **Sit-In** celebrates an important milestone in the fight for racial equality: The momentous Woolworth lunch counter sit-in, staged by four young college students. With dynamic illustrations and poetic text, this compelling picture book is a great starting point for conversations about racism and discrimination.
12. The Other Side by Jacqueline Woodson This book tells the touching story of friendship during segregation. Clover's mom warns her that it is dangerous to cross the fence between their side of town and the white side where Anna lives. But the two girls meet across the fence and strike up a friendship anyway. Expressive watercolour illustrations complement the lyrical narrative perfectly.
13. Shining Star: The Anna May Wong Story by Paula Yoo Stunningly illustrated, Shining Star tells the rags-to-riches story of Anna May Wong, a Chinese American Hollywood star in the 1930s and 1940s. Wong confronted racial discrimination and stereotypes and broke new ground for future generations of Asian American actors.
14. The Case for Loving: The Fight for Interracial Marriage by Selina Alko Because he was white and she was African American and Cherokee, Mildred and Richard Loving were not permitted to marry under Virginia's law in 1958. The couple got married in Washington, D.C., but when they moved back to Virginia, they were arrested. Mildred and Richard fought the discriminatory law all the way to the Supreme Court and won! The Case for Loving is an inspiring story about a couple who changed the world for interracial couples and opened people's eyes to the unfairness of any law that restricts whom you are allowed to love

Sources:

Westlake, Courtney. *Blessed by Brenna* <http://www.courtneywestlake.com/10-great-childrens-books-that-celebrate/?m>

<http://coloursofus.com/37-childrens-books-to-help-talk-about-racism-discrimination/>