

All the Colors of the Earth - Reading Guide

Author/Illustrator: Sheila Hamanaka

Themes: self-esteem, valuing differences, unconditional love

Lesson/Notes: Whether based on life experiences or what they have picked up from the media, some children struggle with viewing their skin color as inferior or unaccepted. Race is not in itself our identity, but it is important to recognize the value of culture and race to help children understand they can be accepted just as they are. This poetic book is a beautiful picture of all the lovely colors of people in our world.

People do not all look the same. All types of people - and all skin colors - are valuable. You are valuable, and so are the other people you know.

Discussion Questions

- *What have you heard about skin color or race?*
- *What stands out to you from this book?*
- *Are any of these colors better than the others? (Not better, just different. They are all equally valuable.)*
- *Children come in all the colors of the earth. How would you describe yourself?*

Activity: Mosaic Paper Art

Suggested Supplies: construction paper of various skin tone colors, glue

- Encourage your child to tear off several pieces of each color of paper (approximately coin-sized).
- The child can then glue the torn paper pieces onto a sheet of paper however they see fit. Encourage them to try to cover the entire paper with a variety of colors.
- While they create, talk about similarities and differences among people (size, color, hair, language, interests, etc.) that make life more interesting. Discuss how all people are valuable.