USING BOOKS TO SUPPORT CONVERSATIONS WITH YOUNG CHILDREN ABOUT RACE

MIXED: A COLORFUL STORY
BY ARREE CHUNG

An inspiring story about colour

Swipe for information about the book and questions you can ask to guide conversations with children.
This book is a journey of diversity and acceptance through the lives of three colors: Red, Yellow, and Blue. The colors live in harmony until one day, each insists they are the best color. The colors separate and build their own towns. Then, Blue and Yellow meet and fall in love. Mixed together, they make Green, who has the qualities of both Yellow and Blue but is her own individual. At first, the other colors are mad, but then they see how beautiful Green is. They open up their towns to each other again and create one city full of many beautiful colors.

RECOMMENDED AGE GROUP: 4-8 YEARS
KEY CONCEPTS

- Segregation
- Separate but equal
- Mixed race
- Diversity
- Color blind
- Bias
Some people think that for everyone to be treated equal, we have to ignore the different colors of our skin. When you don’t see the difference between colors, that’s called colorblind. But it’s okay to see different colors, like the yellow, blue, or green, because the different colors are all beautiful, and they make us who we are.

Why did each color think they were the best? One of them isn’t better; they are all different. When we think one is better or worse than the other, that’s called bias. Sometimes we don’t even know we think this. We may not like someone or something and we can’t explain why, which is unfair. It’s okay to recognize you feel this way, but then it is up to you to make sure you treat that person fairly and with respect.
Talking about segregation
Why did the colors build different towns? Because they were different colors. When people are separated because of their skin color that’s called segregation. Some people think segregation is okay as long as it’s equal. Let’s say there is a school with white kids and a child with black skin also needs to go to school. If they can’t go to the white school because they’re black, this isn’t fair. Segregation is against the law now, but it still happens.

Talking about differences
In the story, they thought all of the reds were loud, the blues were calm, and the yellows were bright. Why did they think all of them were like this? Thinking all people act the same based on how they look isn’t fair. Think about how you and your friend look different but both like to play games. You don’t act that way because you look a certain way, you do it because you like to.
SHARE WITH US

What other questions came up as you were reading?

How helpful was this book in talking with your child about tough concepts?

What was your or your child's favorite part of the book?