

Happy in Our Skin

Fran Manushkin , Lauren Tobia (Illustrations)

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Is there anything more splendid than a baby's skin? For families of all stripes comes a sweet celebration of what makes us unique—and what holds us together.

Look at you!
You look so cute
in your brand-new birthday suit.

Just savor these bouquets of babies—cocoa-brown, cinnamon, peaches and cream. As they grow, their clever skin does too, enjoying hugs and tickles, protecting them inside and out, and making them one of a kind. Fran Manushkin's rollicking text and Lauren Tobia's delicious illustrations paint a breezy and irresistible picture of the human family—and how wonderful it is to be just who you are.

Happy in Our Skin Details


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Author : Fran Manushkin , Lauren Tobia (Illustrations)

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From Reader Review Happy in Our Skin for online ebook

Susan says

Featured couple biracial mommies

Amanda says

Best of 2015. Would have given this 5 stars but the rhymes are a bit awkward/forced at times. Otherwise, an absolute gem. Strong multiculturalism.

Edward Sullivan says

A joyful celebration of uniqueness.

Tam Bush says

This book celebrates diversity in such a positive way, which should be seen in a happy way. There is much representation of various ethnic/racial mothers, father, children, and other family and friends and the beauty of it all. Although subtle (or maybe not), I liked the subtleness of the child and his/her cut on their leg signifying that although everyone is different, we are all the same within - human. A good read.

Cara says

This title is a hardback picture book that describes all the different types of people. I would consider this book progressive and very positive with regards to diversity. It offers illustrations of many races and ethnicities all presented in a positive, appropriate manner. My only concern is that many of the skin colors are described using food words, such as “cocoa brown”, “cinnamon”, “honey” and “peaches and cream”. These descriptions have often been accused of being dehumanizing to the person being described. Although applied equally to all races, the descriptions comparing skin color to food may be offensive to some readers and therefore would be counteractive to the book’s original purpose. Overall I think this is a good book, appropriate for ages 2 – 5, but be wary of the food/skin color comparisons. (reviewed by Meghann MacMillan)

Abbey says

Review to come...

Jenni Heimach says

The poetry in the text and illustrations affirms us that all skin color is beautiful. The illustrations display an excellent example of anti-bias and anti-racist relationships showing all genders, faiths, and family make-ups.

Sally says

Summary

Short rhyming story about different coloured skin, different families and a little of what your skin is good for ("It keeps the outsides out and your insides in." Very light touch and entertaining way to introduce kids to diversity. I liked this book.

The Good

Simple drawing style with a lot of diverse families and children represented.

Recommended for

Parents who are interested in teaching their child about diversity, is part of a multi-racial family or has friends who are. The factual purpose of skin is very lightly touched on and balances with the different coloured skin.

Aimee says

Perfect book to teach kids about diversity. The illustrations are awesome... fun little details hidden on every page. It not only features kids with different skin colors, but also shows kids with glasses, and freckles, and unibrows, wheelchairs, and birth marks. I was so pleased to see all of this, I didn't notice until I was half way through that the main family has two mommies- one black and one white. I keep flipping through this to find more things I didn't notice on my first three reads! So I guess this would make a good "can you find the ____" book for kids too!

Kourtney says

This book was indeed a fun and inviting book. The genre is poetry. I enjoyed reading each page and I'm sure kids will too. This book speaks highly about diversity and loving the skin you're in. Within the book we see different races represented as it evaluates the differences between the human race as well it mentions how we are all the same. The main idea encompasses the fact that we should all be proud of who we are and the skin we are in because we are all unique. This book is perfect for kids because it gives them information about differences to consider without expressing it beyond their comprehension. This book does not have a typical problem and solution style. It does however, mention statements that are relate-able and suitable to the targeted audience. The characters are illustrated to reveal differences in a person's complexion, ability and

religion and they correlate to the text. This book will keep children engaged throughout because of it's bright images and use of exciting words such as: "hullabaloo", "boisterous" and "tickle". The end of the book features a wide variety of cultures and traditions displayed as a neighborhood celebrates a block party. People are spread all across the street as the words describe: " What a wonderful world with all of us in it! See the splendid view: bouquets of people,...." This book was a very inspirational and positive , heart warming book that spoke highly of the human race and the love we should have for one another because the world is wonderful because we are all apart of it

Kelsey says

Age: Infant-Kindergarten

Family: All inclusive

Simple, rhyming text uses our skin to describe how people grow, how we share similar experiences, and celebrates our differences. I felt hesitant about the overarching generalization "we get a tan when it's sunny." But the illustrations are full of fun detail and will have kids engrossed in the children and families.

Janice Coney says

Text-to-World Connection:

Educators will be able to use this book in multiple areas to building their students self-esteem up concerning complexion of their skin. I would like to take the time and connect it to something bigger than just the students. In hopes of getting the children to understand that they are not alone with having questions about the complexion of their skin. The book itself gives examples of the different colors of the many races. I found the author to be very intentional the way they used delicious food flavoring to describe the colors. Nothing unites people better than something sweet to eat. I feel that it would also be suitable to pull up various pictures of people all over the world. Ensuring to show that in every race there are different complexions. Allowing the students to examine these pictures may help them understand that it is not just in their race people have different complexion concerns. I also liked how they used babies as the main characters of the book, and they ended it with a big block party. I would desire to put a pin on that fact. Showing them how even the author knew that from the day they were born their skin would protect them, grow with them, and be especially unique just for them, no matter the shade, spots or dimples.

For an activity, the class would first have an open conversation about skin complexion. Allowing the students to tell me what they like and dislike about their skin. Pointing out how they have similar concerns. Next, they would have an assignment to write an essay describing the cause for disliking their skin, also explain if there was something that they could do to change it, would they? The last thing would be to make an abstract picture of themselves with different paper shapes, textures, and colors. With a quote describing themselves written into their painting.

Rebecca Honeycutt says

The rhyme doesn't always hang together, and it's pretty bare-bones as an informative text. BUT it's super-

adorable and inclusive. Recommended for very young kiddos who are curious about human differences.

Katie Bruff says

This book starts off by showing babies of all different skin colors so sweet and innocent. As the kids grow, their skin grows too. Skin can get scabs, have freckles, and birthmarks along with a lot of other different features. Everyone has skin, but no one has the same skin. The message of this story is to be you in this wonderful world, and be happy in your own skin. This is great for young children to learn about diversity and how not everyone is the same on the outside, and that's okay.

Traci Mann says

Such a wonderful book! Fun for parents to read to their kids. You won't get sick of reading this aloud!
