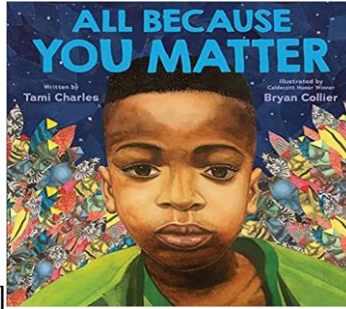


Second Reaction: You Matter, No Matter What

Charles, Tami. *All Because You Matter*. Illustrated by Bryan Collier. New York: Orchard Books of Scholastic Inc., 2020. Print.



Ahmad Mayfield-Reinking

I first listened to the story, *All Because You Matter*, when my mom got it in the mail and read it to me and my sisters. Then, when I was asked to write about it, I read it again by myself so I could really think about it. The book is about parents telling their son why he matters. It seems like they are doing that because not everyone thinks they matter, but they want their son to know he does matter. I think they tell him that because he is treated differently. One example from the book of when he is treated differently is because of his name, Hossam Uzoamaka Yordenis. People in the book made fun of him because his name sounded different to them. I can kind of relate to that experience because sometimes people have a hard time saying my name, Ahmad. I understand that my name, to some people, is hard to pronounce. But sometimes I get upset when people don't even try to say my name because it is *my name*.

I can also relate to the story because I say that I am multiracial. The boy in the book is Black, but his skin is brown like mine. I also feel like everyone can probably relate to this story because in the end it is talking about everyone and how everyone matters. I guess it also relates to the powerfulness and brilliance of all children to keep going, even when people tell them they can't or that they do not matter. It is important to always keep going. Also, I can relate because I have people in my life that tell me I am important all the time. Even when people are not nice to me, my grandparents and parents tell me I am brilliant and resilient.

The pictures in the book are good because they communicate the story well. They communicate the story well because it shows that people matter in the words and in the pictures. For example, in one of the pictures in the classroom, you can tell the student is sad. The picture matches the words because the author is telling us how the child is sad, but the author wants children to know they are powerful and that they matter.

I would recommend this for students because knowing you matter is a good thing to know. This is communicated through the words and the pictures. The pictures also provide specific examples so even little kids could read the book by looking at the pictures. I think teachers should use this in a class or lesson because it is a good thing, a good message to teach to students, that they matter, no matter what.

Works Cited

Charles, Tami. *All Because You Matter*. Illustrated by Bryan Collier. New York: Orchard Books of Scholastic Inc., 2020. Print.

About the Author

Ahmad Mayfield-Reinking is a 6th grade student in Central Illinois. He likes to play Xbox with his friends, take horseback riding lessons, and play the piano. When he grows up, he wants to be an animal scientist-researcher.