

Discussion Questions

More Colors in the Box

Discussing a book that touches on sensitive topics like race and identity is a great opportunity for parents, guardians, caregivers, and educators to have deep and meaningful conversations with their children. Here are some discussion questions that can help guide this conversation after reading the book:

1. **Exploring Misconceptions:** What reasons might Jessie have had for thinking that Ariana could become white by washing her hands?
2. **Emotional Impact:** How might Ariana have felt when Jessie suggested that washing her hands could make her skin white?
3. **Teaching Diversity:** What did Ms. Mathews, the teacher, use to teach Jessie about the beauty of different skin colors?
4. **Understanding Biology:** Is it possible for soap and water to change a person's skin color? What does this tell us about the nature of skin color?
5. **Valuing Diversity:** Why is it important to understand that people come in different colors?
6. **Personal Reflection:** How would you feel if someone wanted you to change the color of your skin?
7. **Self-Pride:** What does it mean to be proud of who you are, like Ariana is proud of her Black skin?
8. **Learning from Differences:** What did Jessie learn from the teacher, Ms. Mathews, about the different colors of crayons?
9. **Responding to Prejudice:** What would you do if you heard someone say something like what Jessie said to Ariana?

10. **The Importance of Diversity:** Why do you think it's important to have people of different colors and backgrounds in our schools and communities?
11. **Advocating for Self:** Why is it important to speak up, like Ariana did when something that is said to you bothers you or feels wrong?
12. **Appreciation of Diversity:** How can we show others that we appreciate and celebrate their unique qualities?
13. **Cultural Understanding:** What are some ways we can learn about and understand people who look different from us?
14. **Promoting Understanding:** If you had a chance to talk to Jessie, what would you explain to her about why suggesting Ariana change her skin color was inappropriate?
15. **Appreciating Diversity:** How does being different from others in a group contribute to a richer and more diverse community or environment?