



Am I Pretty?

Lindsey Jensen Berke

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At preschool, recess is one of Julia's favorite times of day. She loves to swing from the monkey bars, draw on the sidewalk with chalk, and go on the slides. Today she decides to join the other girls in the sandbox.

But one of her classmates tells Julia that unless she is wearing fingernail polish, she can't play with them. After all, only the prettiest girls wear nail polish. Julia is shocked and hurt. Isn't she pretty enough?

Her mom has told her, "It is what's in your heart that matters." But Julia wants to be pretty on the inside and outside.

Julia decides to ask her mom if she is pretty. What will her mom say?

Am I Pretty? Details

Date : Published August 1st 2013 by Archway Publishing

ISBN : 9781480801080

Author : Lindsey Jensen Berke

Format : Paperback 28 pages

Genre : Social Issues, Childrens

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From Reader Review Am I Pretty? for online ebook

Jayna says

This is a great book for teaching self esteem and acceptance. It would work best as a read aloud. As far as independent reading, some words would be challenging for even a second grader (frustrated, generous, etc...) There are also several pages that are text-heavy.

In summary, great read aloud. Challenging independent read for little ones.

I received a copy via the Goodreads First Reads program.

Roseann says

I won this book in a Goodreads Giveaway!

It's wonderfully written and the illustrations are beautiful! All young girls should read it!

Maxie says

Am I Pretty? Lindsey Jensen Berke

I was gifted this book as a Goodreads Giveaway.

Am I Pretty? a book written by Lindsey Jensen Berke an author who has her pulse on the emotions of a primary grade girl who has concerns about her confidence. Ms. Berke describes an encounter by her main character, Julia must handle.

Julia has been looking forward to recess but is omitted from playing with girls she thought were her friends. This is a daily, realistic life situation which occurs in schools all over the world.

Ms Berke's characters, setting and dialogue hits home with realism. I appreciated the manner in which Ms. Berke handles the Julia's challenges which she encounters on the playground.

Children can be so cruel at times and unfortunately they rarely grow out of this type of behavior. This belittling behavior demonstrates poor decision making practices and often continues throughout adulthood.

Ms. Berke provides Julia with coping mechanisms for confronting the problems which could impact her self-esteem was abated due to Julia's mom's wisdom.

I read Am I Pretty? to my second grade students and the book stimulated quite a lively discussion among both genders. I was delighted at how knowledgeable and insightful six and seven year old were as they commented about Julia's problem and how her mother reinforced a positive self esteem and encouragement

for Julia. The students enjoyed the book and talked about the story throughout the next day.

Ms. Berke has reinforced and transformed our school's student code of conduct into realistic models for young students to understand.

I recommend *Am I Pretty?* for all children. My little critics had only one concern. My students expressed was that there were not many students in the illustrations of different ethnic backgrounds. Perhaps, the illustrator will take that under consideration in the next book.

Am I Pretty? is a delightful read worthy of 4 stars.

Carrie says

Am I Pretty? is a wonderful book for small children to read themselves or have read to them. With easy to understand words and sentences. The message is also very important for children and even adults, you are great just the way you are and if people can't accept you for who you are then perhaps you should find others who will.

It is especially good for young girl to read, showing them that there is more to them than just looks. That they can be strong, kind, smart and independent.

Shannon says

had my 7 year old read it to me. we both enjoyed it! she liked being able to read and was excited to get mail!!

Trina says

Great book to read to little girls about bullying in school by other peers

Winter says

I won this book through First Reads, and honestly this is the cutest little book. I'll definitely give this book to someone with kids because I think the kids would benefit from it. It's a great kids book.

Lindsey Lewis says

I received a free digital copy of this book via NetGalley to review.

In our society, beauty and materialism are often viewed as the highest values with the "fairer sex" being subjected to these skewed perspectives from childhood - little girls play with Barbie dolls and plastic makeup sets, watch movies and television shows that base feminine worth on beauty, walk past billboards and posters of Photoshopped models that tout products to make you "thinner, sexier, etc." and develop body-dysmorphia at an alarmingly young age. More than ever, our little girls need strong female role models in television, literature, and real life to teach them that while yes, they are beautiful, beauty is subjective and it doesn't define the real you.

After Julia's classmates refuse to let her play with them at recess because she isn't wearing nail polish, Julia returns home to repeatedly ask her mother, "Am I Pretty?" Her mother's response is a touching discussion about what makes a person truly beautiful - inside and out. It is something that all little girls need to hear, and often.

While the art was not bad, it was cartoonish in style, which isn't my favorite type of illustration in a picture book. However, I felt like the book was incredibly useful and touching and was able to look past my personal preference (my own little "Am I Pretty?" discovery about aesthetics).

Melissa says

Every girl hits a stage where they ask "Am I pretty?" This book starts with a girl asking her mom that question. Sometimes as a mom we are quick to just respond with a quick "of course you are" or "you are beautiful." Well Julia's mom goes further and at the end instead of a quick response she tells Julia why she is pretty. In return shows her that beauty comes from within. The story and cute illustrations make this a must read for girls and even parents!

I was given this book in exchange for an honest review via Netgalley.

Storywraps says

This book is an ideal one to build up your little girl's self-esteem. When your child is faced with bullying or "not fitting in" because she is not pretty enough this is the book to reach for to start a conversation about your child's uniqueness. This leads to the perfect opportunity to tell her how special she is and why you think she is just right the way she is, a beautiful creation to be celebrated.

Julia, on her recess break, faces sandbox divas who won't allow her to play with them because she isn't wearing nail polish and because of that they are more pretty. Very disturbed by their remarks Julia gets off the bus and talks to her mom about maybe painting her nails so she will be accepted by those girls and then asks her mom the question, "Am I pretty?"

Her wise mother assures and inspires Julia with these words, "Julia, you are pretty smart...And you are pretty strong...pretty kind...and pretty brave... and pretty amazing. I love everything about you. But 'pretty' is too small a word to describe you. You will always be so much more than pretty."

These healing words flow from her mother's heart to her daughter's assuring her she is perfect just the way she is. They empower Julia to go back to school the next day to face her bullies with the reassurance that she

isn't just pretty she is way beyond that and even more. With or without nail polish...(and that choice is totally up to her not forced upon her by peer pressure) she is a "pretty" cool kid and she now has the self-confidence to prove it.

The illustrations are bright, colourful, happy and expressive.

Elliott Edward Fisher says

Great for a child's self esteem. I gifted it to my nephew despite it being about a girl at kindergarten. The message is very important as it's one of self esteem and bullying.

The book has been written by a teacher and illustrated with whimsical drawings. Being 'pretty' is important to the little girl, the main protagonist who readers can identify with. It is what is in the inside that matters her mother teaches. Being pretty is great but so is being pretty talented, pretty clever, etc. There's all kinds of pretty. With confidence the girl learns not to care what bullies say but to value herself and all her qualities. It also teaches us that girls can bully, too - with words. This is not so obvious bullying but can harm, too. Yes, I'd recommend it for both genders and all age groups.

Oletha says

I loved this story. I am raising my child to know that who you are as a person is what truly matters in life.

We are raising him to be well rounded, kind, smart, funny. I was glad to see a book that helps instill the same morals we should all strive for in life.

I look forward to sharing this book with my nieces and nephew.

Aaron Lopez says

I really enjoyed this book. I liked how the author showed what true beauty really is. The illustrations were very bright and colorful and the main character actually reminded me a lot of my daughter. This would be an ideal book for parents to read to their daughters. I highly recommend this book! I received this book as part of Goodreads early reader program.

Ryan says

This is the book that ALL little girls should own. It takes the adjective pretty, as in are you beautiful or a troll, and turns it into being more about character than face. You are pretty good at this, and pretty good at that, and you are more than just what you look like on the outside. Excellent Job, Well DONE!!!!

Alice says

4.25 Stars All I have to say is stupid girls on the playground. Julia with a smile walks up to some girls and asks them to play in the sandbox and they say she can't play with them unless their fingernails are painted. So this hurts her feelings and it makes Julia question if she is pretty...turns out she is not only pretty, but pretty good at a lot of things. Great book about self esteems and a book about stupid school yard girls who should be punished and their parents should be yelled out for teaching their children such despicable manners!
