



My Blue Is Happy

Jessica Young , Catia Chien (Illustrations)

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What is your blue like? A lyrical ode to colors — and the unique ways we experience them — follows a little girl as she explores the world with her family and friends.

Your neighbor says red is angry like a dragon's breath, but you think it's brave like a fire truck. Or maybe your best friend likes pink because it's pretty like a ballerina's tutu, but you find it annoying — like a piece of gum stuck on your shoe. In a subtle, child-friendly narrative, art teacher and debut author Jessica Young suggests that colors may evoke as many emotions as there are people to look at them — and opens up infinite possibilities for seeing the world in a wonderful new way.

My Blue Is Happy Details

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Author : Jessica Young , Catia Chien (Illustrations)

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Ms Threlkeld says

What if my blue is different than your blue? What does pink represent? This book explores colors and how we interpret them differently. This would pair nicely with a writing or art project in the intermediate grades.

Beth says

Carrie Gelson was absolutely right: this book is a writing lesson waiting to happen. Love how Jessica Young takes our normal perception of colors (blue is sad, red is angry, yellow is cheerful) and turns it on its head.

Laura Salas says

What a beautiful book to battle the stereotypical associations we have with certain colors. Lovely!

Debbie Emory says

A gem for your picture book shelf! The story gives children permission to see the world in their own way and with their own emotions. Parents will love reading this aloud to children while being reminded of the beauty all around them and in their own points of view.

Barbara says

It's obvious that colors mean different things to different individuals. After all, one person's favorite color may be another's most hated hue. In this picture book a young girl ponders how her sister associates blue with sadness and lonely songs while blue reminds her of a favorite pair of jeans or the pool, and as she notes on the book's final page, blue conjures up happy memories for her. The text and the acrylic illustrations explore the different reactions to colors such as gray. It foretells frightening storms for one person, but for the narrator, it reminds her of warm, cozy times spent with her grandmother.

Ruth says

One of my favorite picture books (of course blue is my favorite color)! I love how it shows the different sides of colors and how they mean different things to people. It also shows how colors can be tied to emotions. AND the illustrations are the cutest!!

Kate says

I love this book! A great exploration of what different colours mean to different people. "'Brrr!' Grandma says. 'Gray is cold. Like the sky before a storm.' But my gray is as cozy as a curled-up kitten and the sound of soft rain on the roof." It's so lyrical and the art is really gorgeous, I especially like the lush green forest. Check out Catia Chien's beautiful paintings!

Trish says

This is a really cute book about what colors mean to different people. I just wish that the author would have done the color purple.

Alexandria says

I thought this book was absolutely adorable. Everyone tells the narrator that colors mean certain things: Blue is sad, grey is cold, red is angry. But she doesn't think so. She thinks blue is happy, grey is comfortable, and red is brave. And she tells you exactly why.

The illustrations are cute and make the concept of colors having "feelings" easier to grasp for younger readers. The wording is easy to read out loud and the structure leaves room for anyone reading out loud to use voices for emphasis on the emotions and things like that. It's a great book to read aloud to kids and I can't wait to get my son a copy.

Sharon Cameron says

Lovely, lovely, lyrical prose, with word choices that are considered, beautiful, and tickle the imagination. Wonderful to be heard read aloud.

Gray was my favorite, like a silvery moon or a morning of mystery. :)

Barbara says

I love the girl's confidence to share her emotional attachment to colors. Especially because she does not follow the expected combinations. Her reaction to pink is humorous. The illustrations amplify the emotional response of each person.

Candice says

I love books that encourage a child's imagination. This book is all about what different colors mean to us.

When a little girl's sister tells her that blue is sad, the little girl responds by thinking of blue as happy because it's the color of her favorite jeans and a splash in the pool on a hot day. When a little boy tells her that red is angry like a dragon's breath she responds by saying that she thinks red is brave like a fire engine and her superhero cape. And so it goes. Different ways to think of different colors. The illustrations are colorful and appealing. Each two-page spread features pictures that are predominantly different shades of the named color. I bought this for a little girl who is 3. I wonder what she will think of blue, and red, and brown, and yellow, and green.

Paige Scott says

1) I love this book and the way it brings a different perspective to each color, and sometimes that is all you need, a new way of looking at things in life. The story starts out by the narrator saying that her sister thinks blue is lonely like a sad song, but she disagrees thinking that blue is upbeat and fun, or a splash in the pool on a hot day. The narrator also believes yellow is worried like a wilting yellow flower. Therefore it goes on to tell what others think of the different colors and the narrator always has a different way of thinking about the color, which also teaches students the different colors but will also teach them colors shouldn't be associated with only one thing.

2) Age Level: 4-8 years old Grade level: Preschool-3rd grade

3) Appropriate classroom use: To show students that each person has a reason for the way they feel about things, and that no one student is the same. It's also a great way to show that everyone learns and sees things differently in the classroom academically wise as well.

4) Individual students who might benefit from this book would be: students that have a hard time being themselves in fear of being made fun of, or students who think everyone has to be the same (eye opener)

5) Small group use: Have students break up into pairs and give each pair three colors to discuss what they think of when they think of this color, and it needs to be different from something in the book. Then we will all discuss as a class.

6) Whole class use: Read the book as a read aloud in class, and have students think about their favorite color and have them draw what they think of when they think of their favorite color and why.

7) Related books: How to Share with Bear, Mother Bruce, Nerdy Birdy

8) Multimedia connection: There are read alouds on YouTube of this book, that way if the book was not available, you could still play the read aloud with the pictures.

Jane G Meyer says

This book, unlike some, is written for children. The sweet theme of colors pervades, with an underlying message that everyone is different, that colors can represent different things to different people. The story is told in bold, visage language, but the illustrations rule. Children will come back to this book again and again just to gaze at the spreads of orange, gray, blue and green.

A lovely gift book for a toddler.

Chance Lee says

Sweet book about colors and emotions. The illustrations are wonderfully done in a monochromatic way that makes "monochromatic" *not* synonymous with "boring."

Storytime 9/21 *** 1/2: The kids enjoyed this book. They especially like talking about "leaf syrup" (i.e. maple syrup) for brown and the blueberries at the end. The group really likes food, I guess!
