



Author: Colin Kaepernick

Illustrator: Eric Wilkerson

WITS Connection: X Walk Away X Ignore X Talk it out X Seek Help

Story Summary:

When Colin is given a school assignment to draw a family portrait. He loves his family and takes the task very seriously. When presenting his portrait, his classmates point out that he looks different from the rest of his family. This doesn't make Colin feel very good.

Remembering how his mom described it to him, Colin explains adoption to his class while celebrating his Black identity and displaying an inherent sense of self-worth. This is the story of a very young boy discovering more about, and staying true to himself, while advocating for change!

Teacher's Notes:

Resources:



Pre-Reading

Questions:

1. Show students the cover of the book and read the title. Discuss what they think the book will be about and why.
2. What is something special and different about you?
3. What does the word family mean to you?
 - a. What are some different ways families can look?
 - b. Do you think everyone's family looks the same?

While Reading

Questions:

1. Why do you think Colin's classmates interrupted him to why he drew himself differently than his family?
2. How did Colin's classmates' questions make him feel?
3. How did Colin respond in the situation? Whose words did he remember?
4. What might you have said or done if you were in Colin's shoes?



Reading Activity:

1. Lead a brief discussion about WITS strategies using one of the WITS visual aids (e.g. poster).
2. Divide the class into small groups and assign each group one of the four WITS strategies.
3. Instruct the group to imagine how Colin may have responded to his classmates when sharing his family portrait by using the WITS strategy they were assigned.
 - a. Write and/or draw notes on their discussion to remember for later.
 - b. Alternative: If appropriate for your class, have them script out a new response with their strategy, or act out the response they discussed.
4. Ask each group to share back with the class (or act out): What might have said or done if he had used _____ strategy?
5. After each group has shared, discuss as a class: What WITS strategy would they personally be most likely to use and



Post-Reading

Questions:

1. How did reading this book make you feel?
2. How could Colin's class have expressed their curiosity about Colin's family in a different way?
3. What WITS strategies did Colin use?
4. What are some reasons we should be proud of the things that make us different?

Commented [AS1]: WITS strategy?

Commented [EL2R1]: Yes! I wasn't sure how using your WITS is usually referenced (ie. Is the strategy qualifier necessary) but if you asked the question it's worth including for clarity!

Commented [GU3R1]: I understand! This looks great, thanks!!