

LUCY'S UMBRELLA

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READER ACTIVITY GUIDE

Noticing beauty in ourselves and the world around us
Read together. Wonder together. Talk about what matters.

FOR GROWN-UPS - Why This Story?

Lucy has vitiligo.

Lucy loves noticing beautiful things.

She writes what she loves about herself and her surroundings in her umbrella.

As she walks through rainy Seattle, she fills the inside of her umbrella with drawings inspired by the colors, patterns, animals, and people she encounters. Eventually, a butterfly's patterned wings remind Lucy of the patterns created by vitiligo on her own skin—and she realizes that she belongs among the beautiful things she has been collecting, too.

Lucy's Umbrella creates an opportunity to talk with children about visible differences without treating difference as something that needs to be fixed.

Lucy doesn't change.

The way she sees herself does.

Talk About It Together. There aren't right or wrong answers. Let the conversation wander.

Before reading

- What do you think makes something beautiful?
- Can two very different things both be beautiful?
- What is something beautiful you noticed today?

After reading

- Why do you think Lucy puts beautiful things inside her umbrella?
- How do you think Lucy feels about the patterns on her skin at the beginning of the story?
- What does Lucy notice when she looks at the butterfly?
- Did Lucy's skin change—or did something else change?
- What is something about you that makes you uniquely you?
- Have you ever noticed something beautiful about another person that they might not notice about themselves?

A NOTE FOR GROWN-UPS

Children notice physical differences. Allowing them to ask respectful questions gives us an opportunity to talk about difference without attaching judgment to it.

Rather than telling a child, “*We don't notice differences,*” consider helping them understand:

We can notice differences without deciding that one way of looking is better than another.

In the classroom: Create a shared “Umbrella of Beautiful Things” where students contribute something beautiful they noticed that week, encouraging observation without ranking one kind of beauty above another.

MY UMBRELLA OF BEAUTIFUL THINGS

At the center: one large open umbrella, viewed from underneath, divided naturally into several panels.

Above it:

“What beautiful things do you notice?”

Lucy fills her umbrella with the beautiful things she discovers. Now it's your turn.

Inside the umbrella, draw, color, or write about beautiful things you notice.

Something beautiful in nature...

Something beautiful about someone I love...

A beautiful color...

Something beautiful that surprised me...

Something beautiful about ME...

And underneath the umbrella:

“Beauty doesn't have to look the same to belong together.”

A LITTLE EXTRA CHALLENGE

Take your umbrella eyes with you today.

Find three beautiful things you normally might walk right past.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

LOOK AGAIN

Lucy is a noticer. Lucy doesn't just look. She notices.

She notices colors.

Patterns.

Shapes.

People.

Animals.

Little things other people might walk past.

Being a good noticer can help us discover wonderful things about the world—and about one another.

Try It! Choose something ordinary near you.

It could be:

- ☐ a leaf
- ☐ your hand
- ☐ a rock
- ☐ someone's hair
- ☐ a flower
- ☐ a piece of clothing
- ☐ something else: _____

Look at it for 30 whole seconds.

Now draw it here.

What did you notice that you didn't see at first?

Now Look at YOU

Finish these sentences:

Something my body lets me do that I love is...

Something that makes me different is...

Something I like about myself is...

Something I hope I never forget about myself is...

There is room under Lucy's umbrella for every kind of beautiful—including yours.