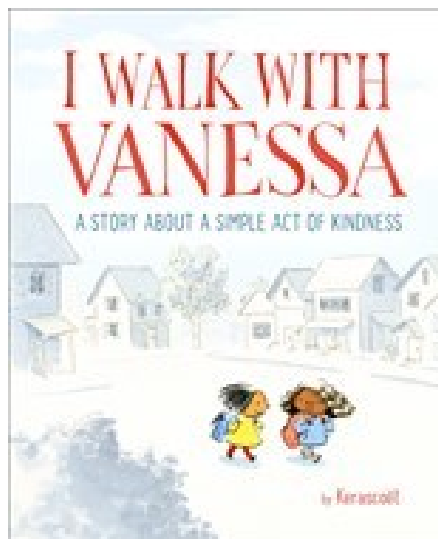




I Walk with Vanessa: A Story about a Simple Act of Kindness

Kerascoët

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Inspired by real events and told only in pictures, this is an empowering picture book from a *New York Times* bestselling husband-and-wife team about one girl who inspires a community to stand up to bullying.

This simple yet powerful picture book tells the story of an elementary school girl named Vanessa who is bullied and a fellow student who witnesses the act and is at first unsure of how to help. *I Walk with Vanessa* explores the feelings of helplessness and anger that arise in the wake of seeing a classmate treated badly, and shows how a single act of kindness can lead to an entire community joining in to help. With themes of acceptance, kindness, and strength in numbers, this timeless and profound feel-good story will resonate with readers young and old.

I Walk with Vanessa: A Story about a Simple Act of Kindness Details

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Author : Kerascoët

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Kerascoët

From Reader Review I Walk with Vanessa: A Story about a Simple Act of Kindness for online ebook

Starjustin says

I absolutely loved this children's book that teaches children, as well as adults, the importance of kindness from the majority to overcome the few bullies in the world. Beautifully illustrated picture book that includes a page in the back that lets children and adults learn some helpful ways to help in both circumstances. A definite 5 star children's book!

Peacegal says

A delight! This is a wonderful book that celebrates how a simple act of kindness can start a chain reaction that shuts down a bully. A gentle, wordless story with characters reminiscent of the "Peanuts" children that kids everywhere will be able to relate to.

Latanya (CraftyScribbles) says

Kerascoet presents a simple tale - wordless - about how a gesture, pure of heart, can change someone's outlook. This book teaches the young how bullying affects other children by using pictures highlighting the brief story.

Perfect for the very young - 3 to 5 - I Walk with Vanessa serves to demonstrate empathy and kindness in a world showing so little of these traits.

4/5

Beth says

The new girl Vanessa is bullied on her way home from her first day at school and one of her classmates can't stop thinking about her for the rest of the night. While the story is wordless, the images are powerful and can help spark conversations about what empathy means and how we can find the courage to follow the voice in your head that tells you to do the right thing.

Richie Partington says

Richie's Picks: I WALK WITH VANESSA: A STORY ABOUT A SIMPLE ACT OF KINDNESS by Kerascoët, Schwartz & Wade, April 2018, 978-1-5247-6955-0

"Madness is what you demonstrate
And that's exactly how anger works and operates

Man, you gotta have love just to set it straight
Take control of your mind and meditate
Let your soul gravitate to the love, y'all"
-- The Black Eyed Peas, "Where is the Love?" (2003)

"There is no more neutrality in the world. You either have to be part of the solution, or you're going to be part of the problem."

--Eldridge Cleaver

I'm with the late Eldridge Cleaver on this.

Over the years, in writing about children's and YA literature, I've frequently cited childhood incidents that scarred me and have stayed with me for forty or fifty years: the five-year-old stranger who blocked the sidewalk and told me he hated me. The thirteen-year-old who called me "faggot" and made fun of my clothes and my changing voice. The fifteen- and sixteen-year-olds who slammed me into lockers or slammed my books and looseleaf out from under my arm. The unknowns who burned down a house under construction in my neighborhood and then spray painted racial epithets on the charred remains because the house was being built for a black family.

These incidents are part of who I became, why I get involved in movements for social change, and why I want to promote a socially-conscious book like I WALK WITH VANESSA.

I WALK WITH VANESSA is a wordless picture book in comic format that features a black child whose family moves to a new neighborhood. At school, the "new kid" is initially shy and reluctant to participate. On the way home from school, a young bully confronts Vanessa on the sidewalk. We can tell by the red that surrounds the scene that the bully is spewing some pretty awful stuff.

A female classmate who is chatting with friends nearby, overhears the bullying and observes Vanessa walking home, crying. She tells her friends about it and they each walk away crestfallen.

Shaken by what she saw, the classmate spends the afternoon and evening brooding over the incident and, the next morning, she has an idea.

She races over to the house she saw Vanessa entering the previous afternoon, knocks on the door, and talks with Vanessa. The two girls depart for school holding hands. Then, beginning with the friends of the observer, scores and scores of children gradually join in, walking to school with Vanessa. The bully is ignored as a sea of smiling children pass by him.

The story is followed by two brief-but-valuable sections of advice: "For Children: How you can help someone who is being bullied," and "For Adults: Some useful words to use when talking about this book with children." These sections were drawn up with the assistance of the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) and the ADL website has extensive lesson plans for using the book.

I don't harbor illusions that I WALK WITH VANESSA will change the world. After all, back in the Sixties, those bullies I encountered all went to church on Sunday and heard about the Golden Rule. But, then again, there were plenty of impressionable young people who heard a good sermon about treating others in the manner one would like to be treated and embraced the concept.

I WALK WITH VANESSA will strike a chord with a certain number of children who may later make a difference in someone's life as a result of having experienced this book.

These days, with so many of our neighbors being vilified because of their color, race, ancestry, or religion,

it's essential that we and our children actively participate in trying to stop the hate and bullying. It devastates me to think of my little grandkids encountering the sorts of bullying that scarred me.

I WALK WITH VANESSA is an engaging and thought-provoking wordless tale that will serve as a resource in teaching our children well. I encourage you to read it, share it, gift it, and make sure it's in your kid's school library.

Richie Partington, MLIS

Richie's Picks <http://richiespicks.pbworks.com>

<https://www.facebook.com/richiespicks/>

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Hilary says

A new girl moves in and starts school. She feels lonely and one boy is mean to her. Another girl notices and goes to call for her in the morning, she tells her friends and soon everyone is making sure she doesn't feel lonely. A nice story, told without words. A great book to have in school.

Jillian Heise says

Wordless picture book about being the new kid, bullying, stepping up and not being a bystander, and simple acts of kindness that can make a difference.

Pair with Bluebird and Each Kindness

Kate says

This is an entirely wordless, children's picture book. It depicts a girl who is excluded from a group of friends walking home together. Another child notices this and convinces the group of friends to walk home with Vanessa.

Mary Lee says

I loved that the girl who helps Vanessa is deeply troubled when she sees Vanessa being bullied. It bothers her almost as much as the bullying bothers Vanessa. Her solution is brilliant, and she leads by example. There will be so much to talk about when I share this book in my classroom!

Deb (Readerbuzz) Nance says

A beautiful little wordless book that is the simple story of how one person's decision to help another person can lead to an entire community of help.

Christine Luong says

Beautifully illustrated book about kindness, compassion, and bullying. Unfortunately, while my 3-year old loved the illustrations and mommy's made up story, she only wanted to read it twice (she usually reads library books as many times as the days they are checked out) because "This book has no letters. I want to read this with letters."

David Schaafsma says

A wordless picture book in comics format that teaches a simple lesson about empathy/bullying, followed by a list of tips for kids and adults on the topic. By the husband and wife team of Marie Pommeupuy and Sebastian Cossett, who gave us the younger horror story, Beautiful Darkness (which is a very different book, which is cool), and illustrated Malala's Magic Pencil. Sweet, with lots of color (and lots of ethnicities).

Come on People, Smile on Your Brother, by The YoungBloods:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V5-2-...>

Believe!

La Coccinelle says

I didn't realize when I picked up this book that it's a wordless picture book. But, sometimes, those can be really powerful.

I Walk with Vanessa tells a story about a girl who is new to town. Nobody really seems to welcome her, and even worse, a bully picks on her after school. Another little girl notices this, and it troubles her. So, the next day, she starts a chain of kindness that ends up impacting many.

The illustrations are quite cute, and an interesting thing is done with the colour palette as the wave of kindness spreads. There's a nice little discussion at the end, more for parents who might be reading the book with their kids, but still worthwhile. I especially liked the bit that differentiated between tattling and telling, for kids who might be worried about getting accused of the former while trying to help: "Tattling is getting someone in trouble, and telling is getting someone out of trouble."

Overall, this is a really strong picture book, even though it doesn't have any text. The pictures are more than enough to tell the story and convey the emotions of the characters. I would definitely recommend this one.

Ricki says

I had a phenomenal conversation with my four-year-old while reading this book. It's geared more toward elementary schoolers, but this book will be well-loved by children and adults of all ages. It's stunning.

Mischenko says

I Walk with Vanessa is a wordless picture book that teaches the importance of kindness and empathy towards others. I picked up this one not knowing exactly what it was about, but it deals with bullying.

Vanessa is a young girl who's been bullied on the street by another boy. Others in the neighborhood have witnessed it and it makes them all sad. A girl down the street decides that she wants to do something about it and she tells other students. She decides to meet Vanessa for school in the morning. They walk to school together and others join in.

I'll admit that I LOVE the lessons this book teaches to young children. My only issue is that there isn't any emphasis on the children telling any authorities- adults, teachers, or parents. This bugs me, mainly because we live in a day and age where adults need to know when children are angry and acting like this. I feel that it can prevent future, more serious outcomes. I did appreciate that a page is added in the back to help children understand what bullying is and how to help, but I really wish there would've been something in the story about turning in this boy who is causing problems. Of course, a random act of kindness is where we start, but everything isn't 'kumbaya' when you have groups of kids together and in my opinion, bullying needs to be stopped and never ignored.

Overall, we enjoyed the book and I think it's one that should be in every school and library.

See this review @ <https://readrantrockandroll.com/2018/...>

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