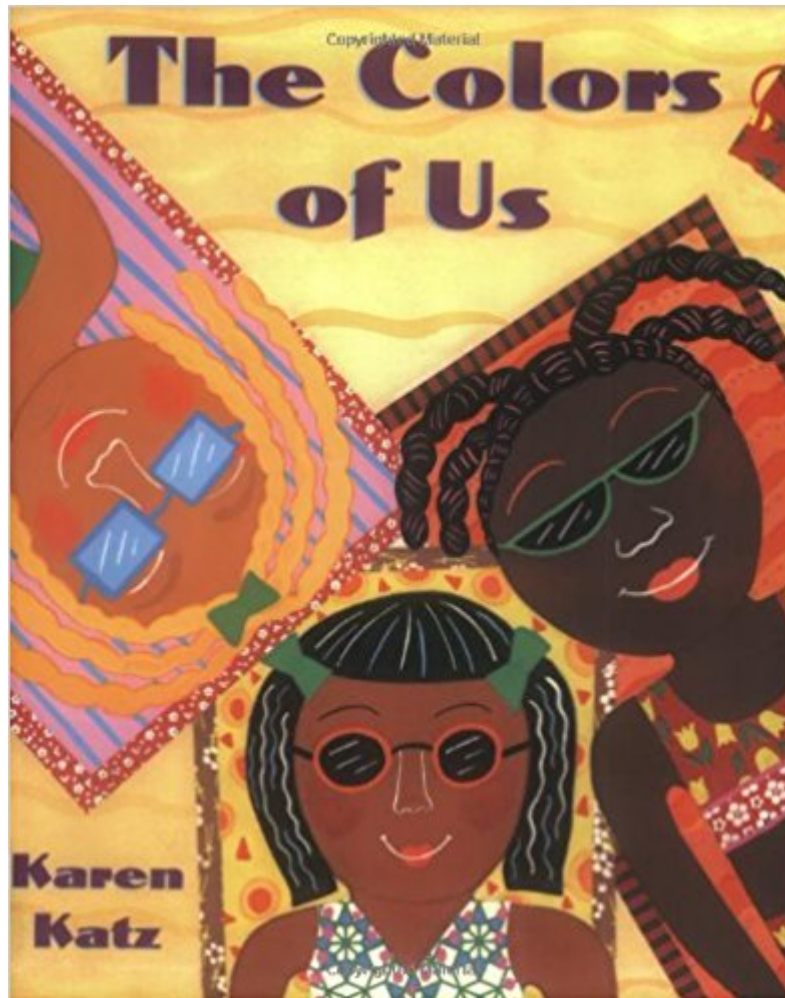




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# The Colors Of Us



## Synopsis

A positive and affirming look at skin color, from an artist's perspective. Seven-year-old Lena is going to paint a picture of herself. She wants to use brown paint for her skin. But when she and her mother take a walk through the neighborhood, Lena learns that brown comes in many different shades. Through the eyes of a little girl who begins to see her familiar world in a new way, this book celebrates the differences and similarities that connect all people. Karen Katz created this book for her daughter, Lena, whom she and her husband adopted from Guatemala six years ago.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 370L (What's this?)

Paperback: 32 pages

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Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars 133 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #1,776 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #1 in [Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Explore the World > United States](#) #22 in [Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Family Life > Values](#) #31 in [Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > Self-Esteem & Self-Respect](#)

Age Range: 4 - 8 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 3

## Customer Reviews

PreSchool-Grade 2 Lena's mother is an artist, so she knows whereof she speaks when she insists that there are many different shades of brown. The two take a walk through their neighborhood by way of illustration, and the friends and relatives they meet along the way aptly reinforce Mom's contention. Their skin colors are compared to honey, peanut butter, pizza crust, ginger, peaches, chocolate, and more, conjuring up delicious and beautiful comparisons for every tint. Katz's pencil-and-gouache pictures joyously convey the range of human pigmentation. Positive and useful. Miriam Lang Budin, Chappaqua Public Library, NY Copyright 1999 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an alternate Paperback edition.

Lena discovers that she and her friends and neighbors are all beautiful shades of brown. "I am the color of cinnamon. Mom says she could eat me up," says Lena. Then she sees everyone else in terms of delicious foods: Mom is the color of French toast. Lena's friend Sonia is the color of creamy peanut butter. Isabella is chocolate brown like the cupcakes they had for her birthday. Lena's best friend, Jo-Jin, is the color of honey. Katz wrote and illustrated the story in affirmation of her adopted Guatemalan daughter and her friends, and the diversity that surrounds them. The message is heavy, but it's made palatable by the loving words and the brightly colored, lively illustrations, which are a combination of collage, gouache, and colored pencil. The pictures of Lena and her friends and city neighbors celebrate the delicious colors of the individual people, all brown, and each one different. Hazel Rochman --This text refers to an alternate Paperback edition.

I understand the comments about stereotyping (ie: Mr. Kashmir and the Italian pizza maker). However, as a parent of brown children who have developed negative feelings about their skin color, I am tremendously thankful for this book. Making the skin tones associated with something delicious and therefore positive helped my children view themselves more positively.

I bought this to read with my three year old after she started noticing the differences in people's skin. It has a nice cadence and is very readable. My daughter loved seeing all the pretty pictures and names/shades of skin tones, and it opened a conversation about what tones matched us and some people we know.

Really liked this book. Bought it for my 5 year old granddaughter who loves to paint. The story is well written and illustrations are terrific. We are going to mix red, yellow, black and white paint next week and make various brown faces.

This book is perfect for really young kiddos. It introduces the idea of race and different skin colors in a really sweet, non-political way. It's perfect for my 2.5 year old daughter.

Wonderful Book my granddaughter LOVES this book. The adjectives used to describe people of color is ingenious!

Perfect reading book for my 2 1/2 year old granddaughter. She loves to read her books every night.

Especially, the Colors of Us!

Such a wonderful book to teach the value of diversity and self esteem. I bought this book 13 years ago for my then 5 year old daughter. It is so easy for children of color to feel uncomfortable with their skin, when they are different from most of their peers. This book illustrates the beauty of all of the colors of the world, and makes all children feel good about themselves, and why their differences make them unique, and valued. I purchased this book for a young daughter of a friend of mine, and I hope she enjoys it as much as my daughter did.

Excellent story for us to talk to our 5 year old about different skin colors because he had been asking and we weren't sure how to address it in terms he'd understand.

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