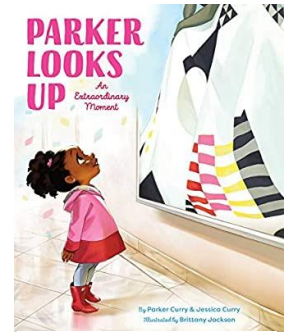


PARKER LOOKS UP

By Parker Curry, Jessica Curry
Racial Reconciliation Family Discussion & Activity Guide
(Preschool, PreK, and JrK)

We hope these discussions and activities will help your child see that the sky is the limit, and beauty comes in all colors! These discussions can happen while reading the book or while doing the activities. Visit our St. Luke's Children Pinterest page for links for activities and more!



Click the book to hear the read aloud

DISCUSSION SUGGESTIONS

- The book begins by sharing something that Parker loves to do. What are some of your favorite things to do?
- What museums have you visited? What do you remember from your visit?
- What kind of museum does Parker visit? What are some of the paintings she sees?
- When you watch movies, read books, and play with toys do you see people who have skin that looks like yours? Do you see people who have skin that is different than yours?
- If you only saw heroes and famous people who had skin that was different than yours how do you think you would feel?
- Why do you think Parker stopped and stared at the portrait of Michelle Obama?
- Do you think it is good to see famous people and book and movie characters who look like you? What happened after Parker saw someone who looked like her who also looked like a queen? Why do you think that happened?
- It is important to see people who are like us AND people who aren't like us so that we can see all of the wonderful people that God made. How did God make you special? How are you different than people in your family? How are you different than your friends? These differences make us special.
- God made people with different skin colors. We call this race. What color is your skin? What color is Parker's skin? Some skin is called White even though it's not truly white. Some skin is called Black even though it's not truly black. This is race. Some people believe that different color skin makes a person better than another person. This is called racism, and it is not true. When our country began, the leaders were White; some of them thought their race was better than Black. This is racist. What should we do if the rules that leaders make are unfair to people because of their skin?
- Some people still believe racist ideas, but we know that is not true. Nobody's skin makes them smarter, faster, better, or more beautiful. People come in all shapes, sizes, and colors...and that makes our world better. What could we do or say if we see someone being racist to someone else (mean or unfair to someone because of their skin color)?
- What are some of the things Parker may choose to be when she grows up? What are some things you'd like to be when you grow up?

ACTIVITY SUGGESTIONS

Art Gallery

Go on a virtual tour of the museums that Parker visited in the book. Talk about your favorite paintings.

- Click on the links for the tours below. It takes a lot of time and money to make a portrait of someone. Why do you think portraits were made of these people? Do you think they are famous or ordinary?
 - [American Origins](#)
 - [Presidents](#)
 - [First Ladies](#)
 - [Portraits of African Americans](#)
- Until recently, there were not many exhibits that showed Black people. Why do you think it is important for people to make and see these paintings?

Create

Amy Sherald is the artist who painted Michelle Obama's portrait. She paints her Black subjects in a grayscale black color rather than a realistic skin tone so that she has to try hard to make sure the clothes and pose show the personality of the person being painted.

- Make a life size chalk self-portrait! Ask someone to trace your body (in a pose you like) on the driveway, patio, or sidewalk with chalk. Add an outfit that you'd love to wear and that tells something about you (are you in a soccer uniform? fancy dress? a bathing suit? a tutu? pajamas? Does it show your favorite color or pattern or animal?). It doesn't have to look perfect, just give it a try!

Discover

George Washington Carver - Look at George Washington Carver's [portrait](#) and then watch this short [video](#) about him. He LOVED plants!

- He invented over 300 uses for peanuts, and many uses for sweet potatoes. He made peanuts a normal food for households across America. Enjoy some peanut butter, peanut soup, or other peanut dish (try a George Washington Carver [recipe!](#)) to celebrate the how he made those plants famous and his nickname the Peanut Man!
- George Washington Carver was known as the plant doctor even when he was a young boy. If it interests you, find a plant that you would like to grow and care for. sunflowers, snap peas, radishes, zinnias, or hens and chicks.

PRAYER

Lord, thank you for making each of us special. Help us to be thankful for the ways we are different from others. Thank you for being our friend forever, and help us to learn how to be good friends to one another. Help us to speak up for the right thing for ourselves and others. We know you made us for a reason, so please help us to follow the right path and remember you are with us all along the way. In Jesus' name, Amen.

