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I Have The Right To Be A Child



Synopsis

With a very simple text accompanied by rich, vibrant illustrations a young narrator describes what it means to be a child with rights; from the right to food, water and shelter, to the right to go to school, to the right to be free from violence, to the right to breathe clean air, and much more. The book emphasizes that these rights belong to every child on the planet, whether they are black or white, small or big, rich or poor, born here or somewhere else. It also makes evident that knowing and talking about these rights are the first steps toward making sure that they are respected. A brief afterword explains that the rights outlined in the book come from the Convention on the Rights of the Child, which was adopted by the UN General Assembly in 1989. The treaty sets out the basic human rights that belong to children all over the world, recognizing that children need special protection since they are more vulnerable than adults. It has been ratified by 193 countries, with the exception of Somalia and the United States. Once a country has ratified the document, they are legally bound to comply with it and to report on their efforts to do so. As a result, some progress has been made, not only in awareness of children's rights, but also in their implementation. But there are still many countries, wealthy and poor, where children's basic needs are not being met. To read a summary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, go to www.unicef.org/crc/files/Rights_overview.pdf.

Book Information

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Age Range: 4 - 7 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 2

Customer Reviews

"Provocative and guaranteed to spark awareness of children's rights." #151; Kirkus, starred review"#133;is a powerful work, and a handsome one." #151; Publishers Weekly"Ã¢ folk-like, colorful illustrationsÃ¢ " Ã¢ "IRA Reading Today Online"I am a child with eyes, hands, a voice, a heart, and rights. I have the right to a first name, a last name, a family that smiles at me, and a country that is my home. I have the right to have enough food to eat and water to drink so that I can grow."#151; from the book

Alain Serres was a kindergarten teacher who was inspired by his young students to write childrenÃ¢ s books. He has since published more than one hundred titles for children of all ages, many of which have been translated into other languages. In 1996Ã¢  Serres founded the highly regarded French publishing house Rue du Monde, whose mission is to provide children with books that allow them to question and imagine the world. He lives in Paris.AureÃ¢ lia Fronty studied textile design at lÃ¢ cole DuperrÃ¢  in Paris and worked in fashion before she began to illustrate childrenÃ¢ s books. Her colorful, naiÃ¢ ve-style art is inspired by her Catalan roots as well as her travels in Africa, Asia and South America. She has illustrated more than forty titles, which have been published around the world. She has also exhibited her art in France and in the United Kingdom. She lives in Montreuil, France.

According to the 1989 United Nations Convention on the Rights of the child, children have the right to be safe, well fed, and adequately housed and clothed. Children also have the right to receive medical treatment and a good education, the right to play and make friends, the right not to work and the right to express their needs, feelings and opinions, even if their parents donÃ¢ t agree. These rights are the same whether a child is a boy or a girl, black, white or any other race/ethnicity, rich or poor, or any degree of ability/disability.The United States is one of a small handful of countries that have not signed on to the Convention, and, of course, even in many of the countries that have signed on, the reality is not so glorious. Of course children actually do go hungry and homeless and uneducated. Many children do have to work from early ages and far too many children suffer and die of treatable illnesses and injuries. And, of course, many children are not safe Ã¢  they suffer in human trafficking and as a result of wars and general lawlessness. Over 130 children have died as a result of the U.S. drone program alone.Nonetheless, I think this is an important book for children to be exposed to in order to give them something to believe in and aspire to. After all, federal, state and local governments have always been plagued by corruption, abuse of power, discrimination and oppression, but that

doesn't mean we stop believing in the ideals set forth in the Declaration of Independence and the U.S. Constitution. We have long pursued - and expanded - the right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness for all men and women - why not children? Children raised to believe that they and others have rights are more likely to fight to gain and preserve those rights for themselves and others. The text and illustrations in this book do a good job of portraying the inclusive, global, aspirational and inspirational nature of the Convention. The free-flowing artwork shows children of all skin tones and wearing all manner of clothing engaged together in idealized, fantastical settings, such as sitting among the stars, flying on an enormous bird, and standing on giant fruits. If you, like me, are struggling to raise free children in an ever more constricted world, this book is a helpful addition to your collection.

If you are reading this parents, your children should know about this legislation that protects them. I don't know why you would be against your children knowing what is normal to expect as a child. It is bad for a child to grow up thinking it is normal that they do not have food or that growing up with abuse is normal.

I learned something as an adult about the Convention of Child Rights.

Important message for all of us

beautiful book. brings tears to my eyes each time I read it. inspires wonderful conversation with little listeners.

I will use this in my classroom for a readaloud about children's rights.

I feel that this cannot be easily understood by children. I was given enough information about this book before ordering. I liked the artwork, though.

If the description isn't enough to turn you off immediately than perhaps this is the book for you. If you are trying to indoctrinate your child into believing that the State should provide for all his needs as a good little Communist, by all means get them this book. Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels would be proud. If instead you want to teach your child that everyone has the individual right to pursue

happiness and to perhaps be a good and kind person and help others voluntarily, then I would look elsewhere than this book. Oh, and in New York State - this is recommended reading under the Communist Core. Welcome to school indoctrination and your tax dollars may just be paying for it in your state too.

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