



# BOOK RESUME: OUR SKIN: A FIRST CONVERSATION ABOUT RACE

## BOOK SYNOPSIS

Based on the research that race, gender, consent, and body positivity should be discussed with toddlers on up, this read-aloud board book series offers adults the opportunity to begin important conversations with young children in an informed, safe, and supported way.

Developed by experts in the fields of early childhood and activism against injustice, this topic-driven board book offers clear, concrete language and beautiful imagery that young children can grasp and adults can leverage for further discussion.

While young children are avid observers and questioners of their world, adults often shut down or postpone conversations on complicated topics because it's hard to know where to begin. Research shows that talking about issues like race and gender from the age of two not only helps children understand what they see, but also increases self-awareness, self-esteem, and allows them to recognize and confront things that are unfair, like discrimination and prejudice.

This first book in the series begins the conversation on race, with a supportive approach that considers both the child and the adult. Stunning art accompanies the simple and interactive text, and the backmatter offers additional resources and ideas for extending this discussion.

## REVIEWS AND PRAISE

"This accessibly written, adroit primer prompts the youngest readers to consider how skin tone relates to race and ethnicity, societal treatment, and justice. An ideal conversation starter for any child." —*Publishers Weekly*, starred review

"This timely book is essential for all collections." — *School Library Connection*, starred review

"An accessible, important addition to any anti-racist bookshelf." —*Kirkus*, starred review

**Title:** Our Skin: A First Conversation About Race

**Author:** Megan Madison and Jessica Ralli

**Illustrator:** Isabel Roxas

**Imprint:** Rise x Penguin Workshop

**Publisher:** Penguin Young Readers

**On sale date:** March 6, 2021

**ISBN:** 9780593382639 and 9780593519394

**Format:** Hardcover and Board Book

**Age Range\*:** 2-5

**Grade Range:** Toddler-1

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\*Publisher suggested age range covers the wide range of readers publishers envision using the book, whether for independent reading, family sharing, group study, or in other ways. Educators have the best sense of the appropriate range for their diverse learners they work with and understand these ranges vary depending on a book's intended use.

“Children and adults can come together over this book, which takes apart the meanings of race and skin color at the foundational level. It’s a stepping stone on the path to understanding what it means to be human, with cheerful art and easy language.” —*School Library Journal*, starred review

“[This] is the book we’ve been waiting for! Ralli, Madison, and Roxas did an incredible thing: they explained race and racism to young children, [and] also provided guidance to the adults who will read it to children.”  
—*Social Justice Books*

“If there were ever a concept that was difficult to break down into terms accessible to young children, it is the concept of race, so adults will welcome *Our Skin* for its ability to just that.” —*Booklist*

“Introducing concepts such as race and gender to children as young as two invites them to begin developing their own questions and thoughts about those concepts, allowing them to start having these conversations early.” —*The Root*

#### **AWARDS AND ACCOLADES**

- American Library Association NOTABLE BOOK (2022)
- Association for Library Service to Children Reading List Pick (2022)
- Parents Magazine BEST BOOK (2021)
- School Library Journal BEST BOOK (2021)
- 2022 NCSS-CBC Notable Social Studies Trade Books List
- 2022 Bank Street College of Education Best Books List

#### **MEDIA AND RESOURCES**

- [Educator Guide](#)
- [Authors Megan Madison and Jessica Ralli on CBS Mornings to discuss the importance of First Conversations with kids](#)

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