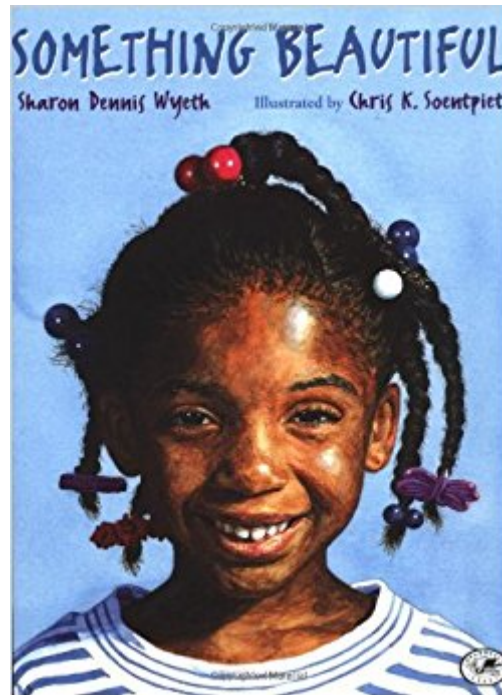




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Something Beautiful



Synopsis

A little girl longs to see beyond the scary sights on the sidewalk and the angry scribbling in the halls of her building. When her teacher writes the word beautiful on the blackboard, the girl decides to look for something beautiful in her neighborhood. Her neighbors tell her about their own beautiful things. Miss Delphine serves her a beautiful fried fish sandwich at her diner. At Mr. Lee's beautiful fruit store, he offers her an apple. Old Mr. Sims invites her to touch a smooth stone he always carries. Beautiful means something that when you have it, your heart is happy, the girl thinks. Her search for something beautiful leaves her feeling much happier. She has experienced the beauty of friendship and the power of hope.

Book Information

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Best Sellers Rank: #52,385 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #8 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > Multiculturalism #33 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Difficult Discussions > Homelessness & Poverty #70 in Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Where We Live > City Life

Age Range: 3 - 7 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 2

Customer Reviews

This moving picture book offers a shining testament to the ability of human beings to find "something beautiful" in even the most unlikely places. An African American girl initially sees only the ugliness of her neighborhood. There is "trash in the courtyard and a broken bottle that looks like fallen stars." On her front door, someone has scrawled the word "DIE," and a homeless lady "sleeps on the sidewalk, wrapped in plastic." Searching for something beautiful? "something that when you have it, your heart is happy"? she polls various neighbors. For an old man it is the touch of a smooth

stone; for Miss Delphine, it's the taste of the fried fish sandwich in her diner; for Aunt Carolyn, it's the sound of her baby's laugh. When the girl decides to create her own "something beautiful," she picks up the trash, scrubs her door clean and realizes, "I feel powerful." Wyeth's (Always My Dad) restrained text is thoughtful without being didactic. She creates a city landscape that is neither too dark nor too sweet; and her ending is just right, with the heroine's mother saying that her daughter is her "something beautiful." Soentpiet's (Peacebound Trains) paintings are luminously lifelike. Whether depicting the girl running past a chain-link fence in a dark alley or Miss Delphine's patrons sitting beneath the rows of glinting glasses, the paintings focus on a community with characters so real, readers can almost feel the sunlight on their faces. All ages. Copyright 1998 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Grade 2-4-Looking at the trash and graffiti in the courtyard outside her inner-city apartment, a young African-American girl wishes for something beautiful. As she walks home from school, she asks friends and neighbors what their "something beautiful" is, and gets a delightful array of answers: Sybil's jump rope, old Mr. Sims's smooth stone, Aunt Carolyn's baby's laugh, the fried fish sandwiches Miss Delphine serves at her diner. Back home, the girl cleans up her trash-filled courtyard and resolves to help make her own neighborhood into something beautiful. Told in the child's voice, the text captures the curiosity and resilient spirit of childhood. The paintings, rich with realistic detail, begin with dark, sometimes spooky images of a world filled with broken bottles and chain-link fences, then move to brighter, happier scenes peopled with the friendly faces of the neighborhood. Inner-city children will appreciate this believable, upbeat depiction of a community and may be inspired to seek out something beautiful of their own. This engaging picture book could spark discussion about what "beautiful" means to children in any neighborhood. Dawn Amsberry, formerly at Oakland Public Library, CA Copyright 1998 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Luv this book!! I am a foster parent and bought this book for a 5th grader who was very behind in reading. I taught her to read this book and she loved it. I also adopted a child that was 5 and was also behind in reading. I read this book to her as well. well now she is on her grade level going to the 2nd grade and she was asked by her kindergarten teacher to read to her class and this was the book she chose. Now we live in a predominately white neighborhood and none of the kids could really relate to this book but my baby said they loved the book and she was asked to read it to her principle. Hope they learned something from this well written book.

I like to use this book with my students to show them there is beauty in everything, even when it doesn't appear to be so. It's about finding the best in all situations -- very optimistic, growth mindset type book.

My granddaughters are 5 and 3 and I read to them A LOT and they didn't really like this story. My 5yr old didn't like it because it had the word "DIE" in it and she just couldn't see past that, I guess. it was kind of "dreary" when you really expect more coming from the title. I guess that is why one should not judge a book by the cover. This was not one of my favorites and note one they requested for me to read again and again. Sorry.

It is such a beautifully illustrated book. I like that the situation is very urban and poor. I work as a counselor in a Catholic urban school 4th thru 8th grades. I will use this book as a guidance lesson in all five grades. It is such a nice message. The message is that there is beauty everywhere even when we can't initially see it. Even when our environment is full of litter and graffiti. We have only to look for it. And, of course, the beauty that is most important is the beauty within us. I love this book.

This is a very sweet book and for some reason my grandkids really like it. My daughter was amazed that I bought it as it depicts a very different life style from our own. But it's nicely done, both the writing and the pictures and is good for children to realize that not all of them are so fortunate. And the little girl does find many things "beautiful" in her life.

The story, Something Beautiful, is a wonderful springboard for discussion about how to make sense of a complex world. Big issues are tackled in this book. Gorgeous illustrations and engaging text frame examples of crime, poverty, homelessness, urban living, social structures within families and friendships, and clearly, recognizing the power in oneself to choose a positive perspective of one's life. The engaging illustrations focus on characters' expressions and different micro-settings within the larger picture of an urban neighborhood. All the characters share what they feel is beautiful in their lives to an inquisitive, little girl. My favorite part is when the little girl asks her mother about what is beautiful. Her mother responds, "You, of course!" The author follows the story with a personal experience with her own mother. This is a MUST read aloud for all children. The book will enable you to have a rich, memorable discussion about what is beautiful in a world filled with bad news. You will not be disappointed with this beautiful story!

Wonderful book! It came in quickly! I used it to teach social issues (homelessness, vandalism, and more) to my class. It is a great book for teaching children they can make a difference in the world right now at the age they are, and it is a sweet sweet book!

The illustrations are beautiful and my goddaughter loves to make up her own stories to the pictures. I'd definitely purchase this book again.

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