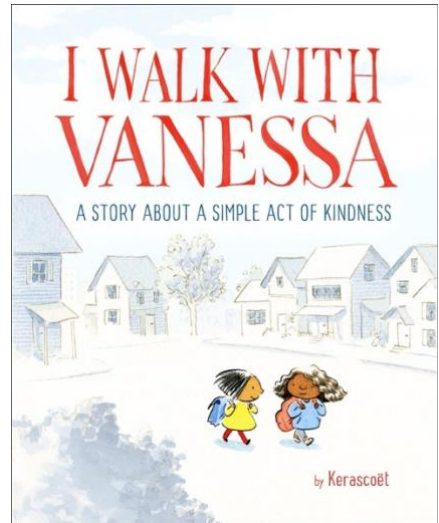


1st MOVEMENT: *Together*

I WALK WITH VANESSA by Kerascoët
Schwartz & Wade (2018) | ISBN: 978-1524769567

Inspired by real events, *I Walk with Vanessa* explores the feelings of helplessness and anger that arise in the wake of seeing a classmate treated badly and shows how a single act of kindness can lead to an entire community joining in to help.



BEFORE

Before leading students in a modified **PICTURE WALK**, use a post-it note or something similar to conceal the title on both the cover and title page, leaving the illustration visible.

Ask: What's going on in the picture? What will this story be about? What do you see that makes you say that?

Continue the picture walk to the title page, and the double-page spread that follows. Allow time for students to study the illustrations but ask them to keep their predictions to themselves for the moment.

Now, flip back to the cover and remove the post-it notes. Read the title and subtitle. Does knowing the title change their predictions?

DURING

Guided by the open-ended questions (What's going on in this picture? What do you see that makes you say that? What more can we find?) continue to encourage

students to “read” the story by sharing their interpretations and thoughts about the developing art and narrative.

As Megan Dowd Lambert suggests in her book, “use these questions to help children dig deeper into insights that surprise or intrigue. The idea is to engage the group in ways that guide, as opposed to direct, the group’s reading.”

AFTER

Share this brief quote from the backmatter with students:

“Kindness multiplies. One small act of kindness can inspire more kind acts.”

Questions to consider ...

- What do think the quote means? Do you believe it’s true? Can kindness multiply? In what ways? Can you share examples?
- Have you ever experienced a small act of kindness? How did it make you feel? Did it inspire you to “pass it on?”
- What act of kindness might you try today?

EXTENSIONS

- Make a *Kindness Poster* for your home or classroom. (pg. 6); paint rocks with positive messages to leave around the school or neighborhood; decorate the playground with kindness-themed chalk art.
- Have the students do a group retelling of the story. As one child shows the pictures, another student recounts what’s happening. The teacher can act as scribe or consider recording a video or audio of the retelling.

KINDNESS COUNTS