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Jamaica's Blue Marker



Synopsis

Jamaica was friends with everyone in school - except for Russell. No wonder: Russell was a mean brat. When they had art class, Russell borrowed her markers and spoiled her picture. At recess, he threw sand and chased little kids. Jamaica certainly wasn't sorry to learn that Russell was going to move away. She didn't even want to make a card for him, the way the others in her class were doing. But then something happened to change her mind . . .

Book Information

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Age Range: 4 - 7 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 3

Customer Reviews

PreSchool-Grade 2?Jamaica is not thrilled about having to share her blue marker with Russell. He never has the supplies he needs, and this time he takes the marker and draws all over her picture. The next day, she discovers that he is moving. With the help of her father, she begins to understand that her classmate is mean because he is unhappy about leaving and gives him her blue marker to remember her by. Havill once again captures important events in the lives of young children through the kind and thoughtful Jamaica. Through an everyday occurrence, she learns a strong lesson about feelings?her own as well as others'. O'Brien's full-page watercolor illustrations feature a multiethnic classroom and beautifully reflect the expressions and moods of the main characters.?Helen Rosenberg, Chicago Public Library, ILCopyright 1996 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Ages 3⁺-6. In the latest picture book about Jamaica and her friends, Jamaica thinks her classmate Russell is a mean brat, especially when he scribbles all over her special drawing; but when she learns that he's moving away, she imagines how sad he must be and reaches out to him. The sensitive story and realistic watercolor pictures show Jamaica's strong feelings and how they change. We see her at home with her warm African American family and in her classroom with her teacher and the other kids. Then in a climactic double-page spread, Jamaica and Russell look at each other and talk and say good-bye. Use this with John Steptoe's classic *Stevie* (1969) and with other books about how enemies can become friends. Hazel Rochman --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

typical bully story, but nice. Just wish people would write more about how to deal with bullies than just having empathy for them. Not every bully out there turns nice when you show them kindness. I want to teach my daughter how to stand up to a bully, not just feel sorry for them.

Excellent book to add to my First Grade collection. This series is wonderful as Read Alouds for teaching Realistic fiction, and how character feelings change throughout the story. I am very satisfied with the product and the seller.

Cute story!

A good book

This book is a good one to read to pre-schoolers and kindergarteners to help explore the feelings they have when they either meet someone like Russell or, at times, actually find themselves acting like Russell. Hey, we all do it now and then. Jamaica finds herself having to share her markers with Russell, who is neither well-behaved nor particularly adept at being prepared for class - he never has his supplies with him, and Jamaica pays the price by having to share her markers. She pays a heavier price when the picture she draws gets scribbled on by the dreadful Russell. When she tells her father of the day's events, he acknowledges her hurt feelings at having her work ruined, and then springs a surprise on her - Russell is moving away, do you suppose his feelings are a little mixed up right now? Jamaica remains angry over the incident, to the extent that she won't join the class in making "Goodbye" cards to Russell; seeing how Russell behaves in the school yard at

recess, one can find it difficult to blame her. The end of the story finds Jamaica empathizing, finally, with Russell. This is truly the moment of self-awareness and the moment when most children become cognizant of their own actions on others; by placing herself in Russell's shoes, just for a fleeting moment, Jamaica understands, or more importantly TRIES to understand, what has made Russell act this way recently. Again, sharing this book with the younger children opens up a museum of opportunities to see if we can learn from each other. Pat yourself on the back if you purchase this book.

as a birthday gift to my husband very good seller . it is very fast delivery. recommend it to my friend. It was a gift, they liked it a lot, works great.

These books are a cut above. Not complex, but a little more sophisticated than the average children's book with a moral lesson to be found in each. I recommend the entire series.

Children can easily relate to Jamaica's feelings and may learn that sometimes people seem to be mean when really their feelings are just hurt.

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