

Emmanuel's Dream: The True Story of Emmanuel Ofosu Yeboah

By Laurie Ann Thompson

Illustrated by Sean Qualls

The inspiring true story of a Ghanaian boy who overcame a disability and became a cyclist.

Audience:

- Grades 1-5

Synopsis:

This story details the true story of Emmanuel Ofosu Yeboah, a Ghanaian, who cycled across the country as a way to spread a message that even those who have disabilities are not without ability. Winner of the Schneider Family Book Award.

Author Website:

- <http://lauriethompson.com/>

Illustrator Website:

- <http://seanqualls.com/>

Curricular Connections:

- Character Education
 - Overcoming adversity
- Social Studies
 - Africa and its citizens
- Language Arts
 - Text-to-Self Connection

Lesson Ideas:

- Have students develop descriptions of traits that they feel Emmanuel shows in the story. Then, have the students give examples of times in their own lives when they or someone they know exhibited these same traits. Worksheet is attached.
- Have the students paraphrase Emmanuel's message and reflect on it. Then have them develop messages of their own.
- <http://www.emmanueldream.org/>
 - This site pertains to Emmanuel's goal of empowering people with disabilities.
- <http://www.emmanueldream.org/>
 - This site pertains to Emmanuel's goal of empowering people with disabilities.
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BHUDh82sZYs>
- Teacher's Guide from Random House
 - https://www.randomhouse.com/teachers/wp-content/uploads/2015/01/EmmanuelDream_Poster_BCK_WEB.pdf

AASL Standards for the 21st Century Learner

- 4.1.2 Read widely and fluently to make connections with self, the world, and previous reading.
Benchmark: Read widely from multicultural texts in various genres to find out about self and the surrounding world.

Framework for 21st Century Learning

- LIS.02.b Work Creatively with Others: Be open and responsive to new and diverse perspectives; incorporate group input and feedback into the work.

Common Core Anchor Standards

- CCSS.ELA.Literacy.CCRA.R.2
Determine central ideas or themes of a text and analyze their development; summarize the key supporting details and ideas.
- CCSS.ELA.Literacy.CCRA.R.3
Analyze how and why individuals, events, and ideas develop and interact over the course of text.

Attached Materials

- Emmanuel's Dream worksheet

Suggested Companion Titles:

- What's Wrong with Timmy? By Maria Shriver
- Keep Your Ear on the Ball by Genevieve Petrillo
- Helen's Big World by Doreen Rappaport