

If Racism Vanished for a Day...



Co-produced by the RESPECT project

Illustrations by Alishba, Anaya, Ayaan, Gurveer, Hanad, Hussain, Ibrahim, Julia, Jumma, Khadija, Kotha, Mariam, Rayan, Sade, Sadia, Zara and Zikra

Designed and curated by Luci Gorell Barnes

The idea for this book was conceived by Luci Gorell Barnes and Verity Jones*.

It was designed and curated by Luci Gorell Barnes. The illustrations were produced by Alishba, Anaya, Ayaan, Gurveer, Hanad, Hussain, Ibrahim, Julia, Jumma, Khadija, Kotha, Mariam, Rayan, Sade, Sadia, Zara and Zikra.

The right of the RESPECT team: Luci Gorell Barnes, Verity Jones, Chris Pawson*, Tessa Podpadec*, Malcolm Richards*, Justin Vafadari*, Sarah Whitehouse, Alishba, Anaya, Ayaan, Gurveer, Hanad, Hussain, Ibrahim, Julia, Jumma, Khadija, Kotha, Mariam, Rayan, Sade, Sadia, Zara and Zikra to be identified as authors, and Luci and the 17 children as illustrators of this work has been asserted by them in accordance with the copyright, designs and patent act 1988. (*University of the West of England, Bristol)

Accompanying teachers' notes were developed by members of the team. This book is available as an e-book. The notes and the e-book can both be found at: www.respectprojectbristol.org

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What people might want to know about this book

People can treat each other unfairly for many reasons. Sometimes people are treated unfairly because of differences in skin colour. This is racism.

Racism is complicated and is experienced in many different ways. This book is based on children's experiences of racism that they shared in a project called RESPECT. It aims to offer children (and adults) the opportunity to think about these difficult issues.

The RESPECT project explored 10 and 11 year olds' experiences of racism and the impact this can have on their mental health and wellbeing. This book draws on that research, and shares the children's experiences by considering what life would be like if racism vanished for a day.

We have suggested some prompt questions on each page to support discussions of the experiences and ideas described by the children. Sometimes these discussions might be tricky or feel uncomfortable, but the children in the RESPECT project think they are important conversations to try to have.

What the young people on the RESPECT project say

“ I’ve loved working on this project. It has been really inspirational because I have realised that racism isn’t talked about enough and racism is still very common in the modern world.”

“ This project has been helpful because I got to say what I feel about racism.”

“ I enjoyed being able to share my thoughts on racism. I felt as if I could express what I really want to say without hesitation. I could be a part of a great community who raise awareness of racism and how it should not be tolerated.”

“ I enjoyed being able to express myself through the drawings. I think it’s very good to talk about racism.”

If racism vanished for a day, I'd feel totally comfortable wearing my hair like this...

Some children with black and brown skin want to wear their hair in ways that relate to their culture and/or religion (e.g. wearing hijabs and turbans) while others want to have their hair 'natural' and not always have it cut short, or put in tight plaits that can be painful.

- How do you like to wear your hair?
- Why might some children with black and brown skin feel uncomfortable about wearing their hair how they would like to?
- What changes could be made so that children with black and brown skin feel comfortable wearing their hair how they want to?



If racism vanished for a day, I'd be confident that I would be believed by...

Some children with black and brown skin feel they are not always believed when they try to talk about racism.

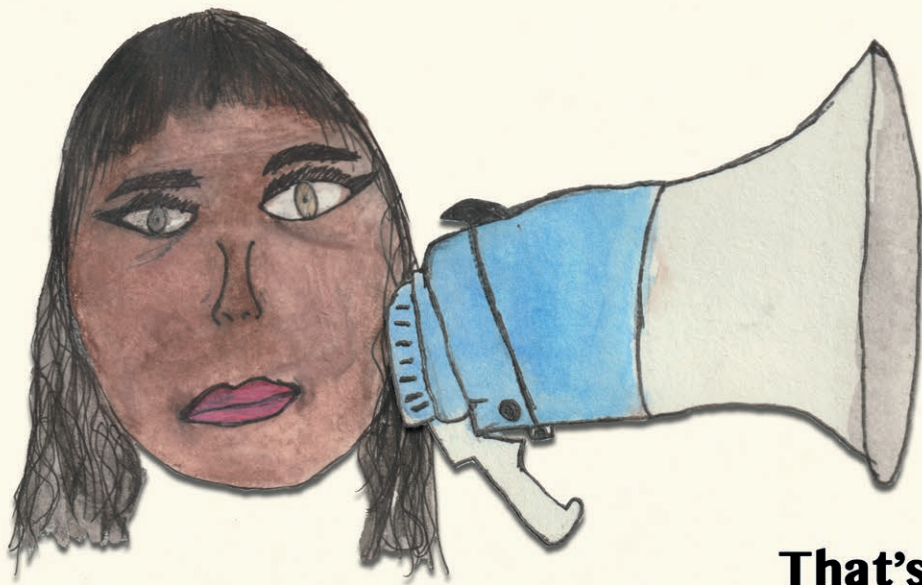
- Can you think of a time when people have not believed you when you have been telling the truth? How did that make you feel?
- Why do you think that some children with black and brown skin are sometimes not believed when they are telling the truth? (This might include not being believed by teachers, the police, or people in government.)
- What changes could be made so that children who have black and brown skin feel confident that they will be believed as much as children with white skin?



If racism vanished for a day, I would speak my mind...

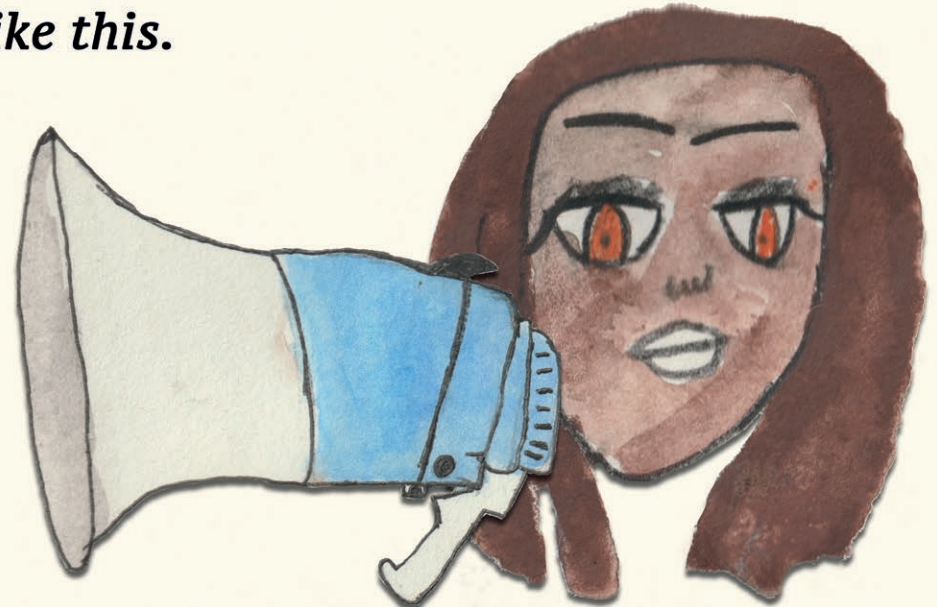
Some children with black and brown skin sometimes feel unable to speak out about things that are important to them.

- What is important to you? Do you feel able to talk to people about these things?
(This might include your family and friends, keeping safe, or your favourite games, food and music.)
- Why might some children with black and brown skin feel unable to speak out about things that matter to them?
- What changes could be made so that children with black and brown skin feel able to speak about these things?



*Why are you doing this?
That's a bit rude.
I think you should stop.
I don't like this.*

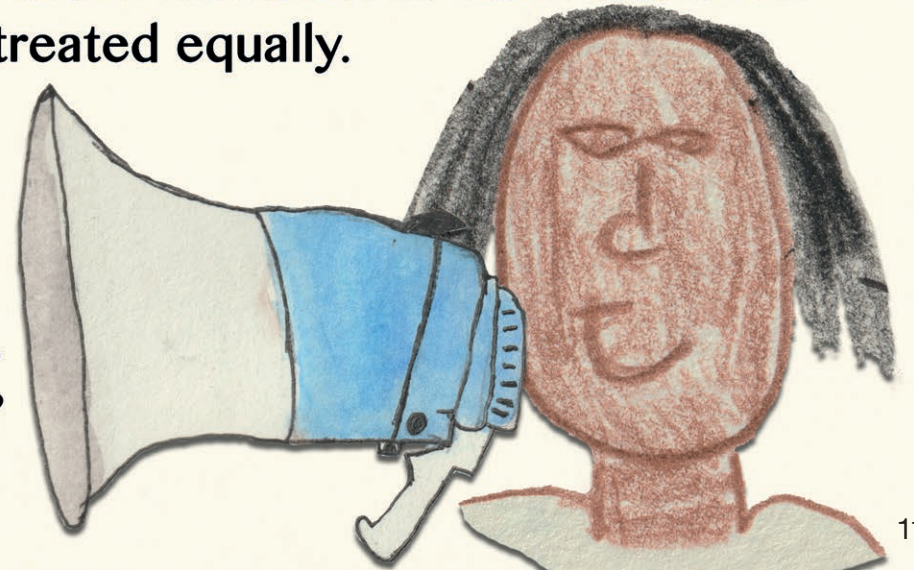
**That's so unfair.
Please don't do that, leave me alone.
Don't do that - I am a person too.**



**I want just as much attention as other children..
I want to be treated equally.**



***I want to eat more of my culture's food.
What was the point of starting racism?***



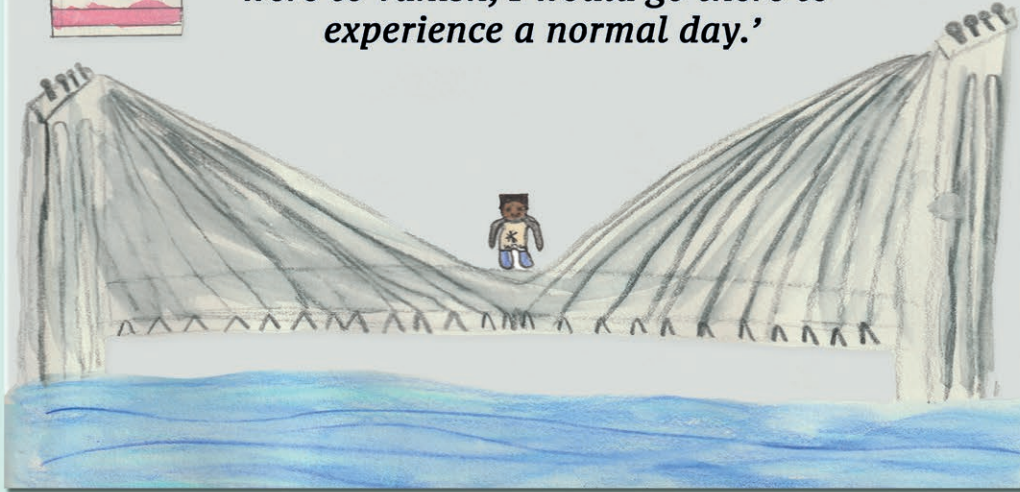
If racism vanished for a day, I would go wherever I wanted to...

Some children with black and brown skin feel that there are certain places where they are not welcome or don't feel safe.

- Is there somewhere that you would like to visit? Do you think people with your skin colour would feel welcomed there?
- Have you heard about racism happening anywhere recently? (This might be in your community, your country, or somewhere else in the world.)
- What changes could be made so that people with black and brown skin feel welcomed everywhere?



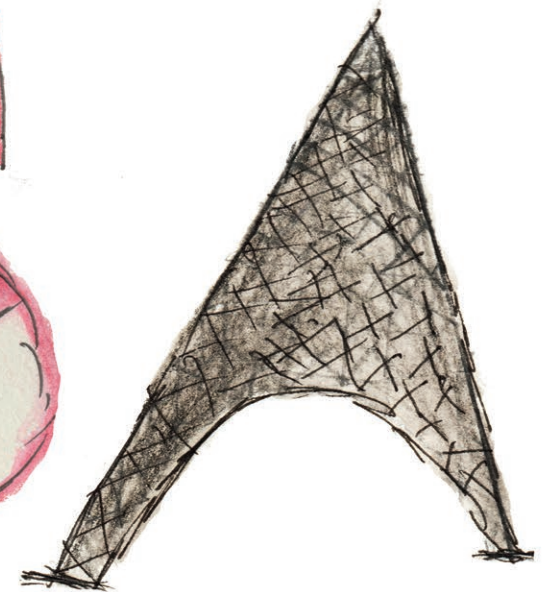
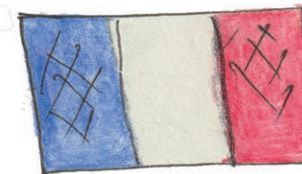
'Brooklyn is a densely populated area where racism is prevalent. So if racism were to vanish, I would go there to experience a normal day.'



'I'd go to China because I would like to see the historic buildings. Muslims would have freedom there, and enjoy their time without fear of being held hostage.'



'I would go to the shops and everyone would treat me with kindness. I would go to the park without someone saying "What are you doing here? You don't belong."'

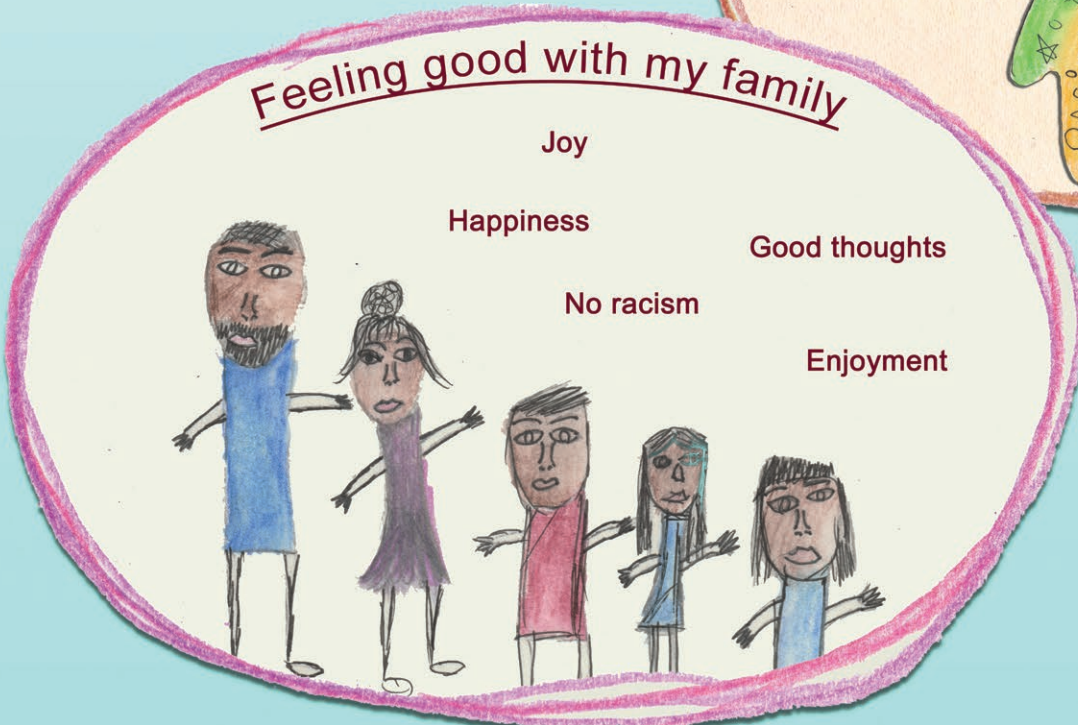
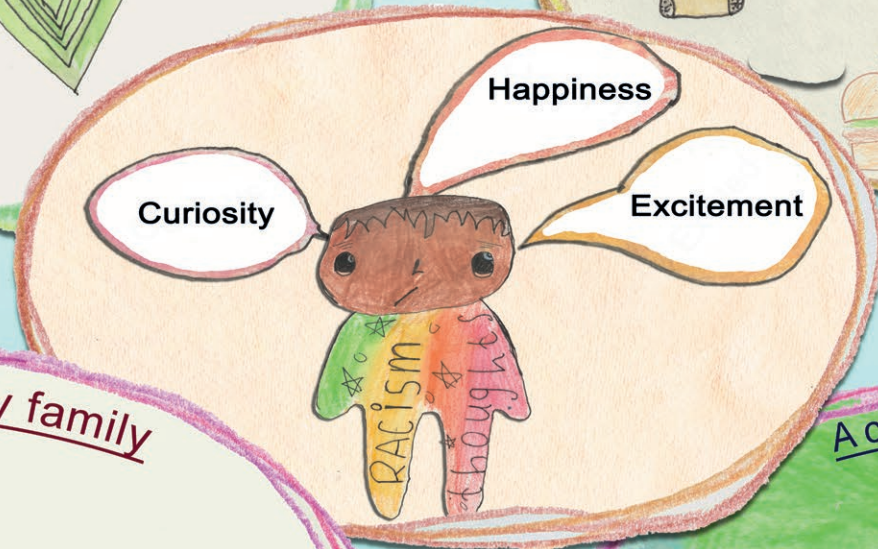
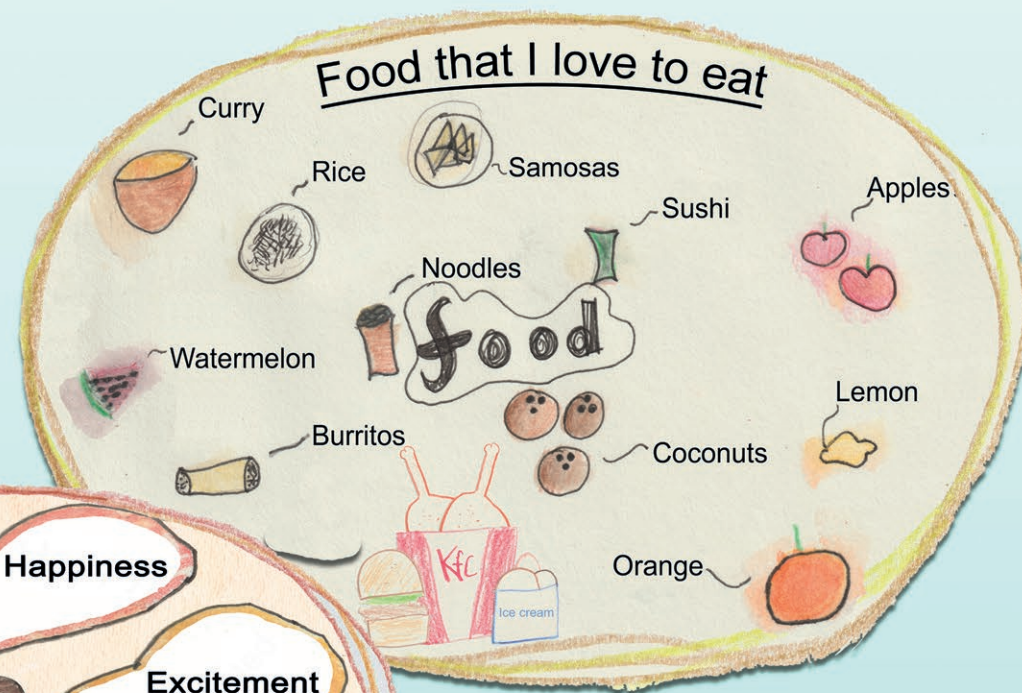


'I would go to France, but at the moment they ban you from wearing anything to do with religion, like a hijab.'

If racism vanished for a day, my mind would be full of...

Some children with black and brown skin feel worrying about racism stops them thinking about things that they like and enjoy.

- What do you worry about?
- Why do you think that some children with black and brown skin worry about racism?
- Do you have someone you talk to about your worries?



If racism vanished for a day,
the police would treat me
and my family with...

Some children with black and brown skin feel that the police don't always treat them the same as people with white skin.

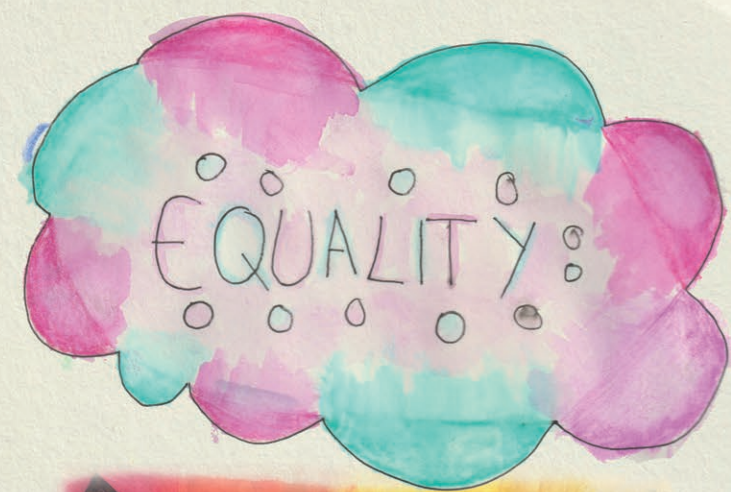
- How do you know if someone respects you? What does that feel like?
- What is equality?
- What is the job of the police?
- How do you feel about the police?



equality



Like Their Own



EQUALITY

Love and



respect



consideration

Respect

Respect

Kindness

Equality

Kindness and respect



Respect!



Respect and Equality

If racism vanished for a day,
I would look at the colour
of my skin and feel...

Some children with black and brown skin say that racism makes them feel worried and scared.

- How do you feel when you look at your skin colour? Do you know why you feel like this?
- Why do you think racism makes some children feel scared and anxious?



If racism vanished for a day,
I would see people who look
like me in positions of power...

Some black and brown children feel that there should be more teachers with black and brown skin.

- What differences do you think it might make to have more teachers with black and brown skin?
- Do you think they would be more understanding when racist incidents happen?
- What advantages might teachers with black and brown skin bring to your learning?

I would see more Black and Asian teachers.



I would see Black generals in the UK army.



I would see Black police women.



I would see the first Black Prime Minister, and Hijabis and Muslims proudly standing for election.



If racism vanished for a day, I would feel...

Some children with black and brown skin think it would be very positive if racism vanished for a day, and some children say they are not sure how they would feel.

- Why do you think it might be hard for some children to think about racism vanishing?
- Can you imagine how you would feel?
- Do you think it could happen? Can you say why you think this?

ECSTATIC

delighted

FREE

Thrilled

liked
wanted
loved
accepted
not judged
appreciated
known
enjoyed
noticed

I don't

Know

JOYFUL

SAFE!

relieved

PROUD

* It's not enough because
it's only one day! *

Further reading you might find interesting

Black and British: A short, essential history by David Olusoga

Coming to England by Floella Benjamin

Noughts & Crosses by Malorie Blackman

Planet Omar: Accidental Trouble Magnet by Zanib Milan

What is Race? Who are Racists? Why Does Skin Colour Matter? And Other Big Questions
by Claire Heuchan and Nikesh Shukla

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We would like to say a really big **“Thank you!”** to the children, staff and families from our three participating schools.

FUTURE
QUEST



“We made this book because racism is not okay, and we want people to understand the way it affects us. Our book is about what it would be like if racism vanished for a day, and we hope that reading it will help people think about how they can change what they do. Racism is a really big deal. It shouldn’t have existed in the first place.”

