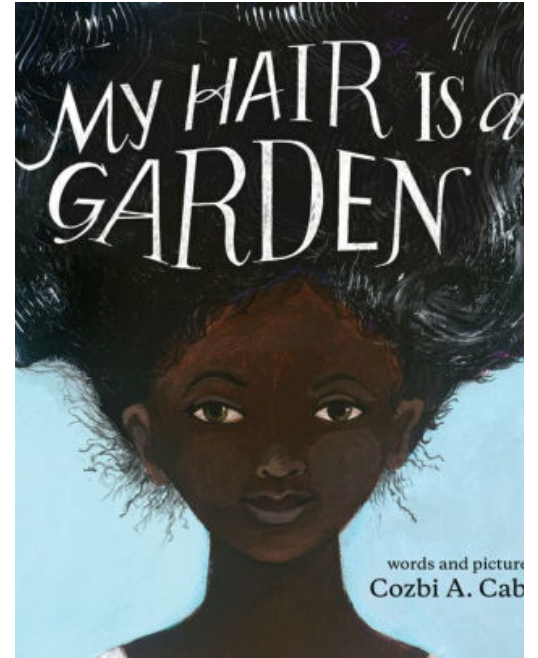




MY HAIR IS A GARDEN

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Mack's hair isn't known for being neat and tidy. She doesn't know how to take care of her hair and make it look its best, and doesn't feel that it would be beautiful even if she took the time. Her neighbor, Miss Tillie, teaches her how to take care of her hair, and that no matter what it looks like, hair is like plants in a garden—as long as it's healthy it's all beautiful.



Questions:

1. Is there anyone in your life who isn't family that you are close to, like a neighbor or teacher? Is it good to have lots of grown-ups you can trust?
2. How do you think Mack felt when Julio made fun of her hair? Was it the first time someone had made fun of her hair? Does it make it easier or harder when someone has made fun of you for the same thing before?
3. Often black people don't just have darker skin, but they have different hair as well. Have you ever had to worry about taking extra care of your hair every day? What would it be like if you had to take extra time every day for your hair? Would it make your life easier or harder?
4. Does her hair being different than other people's (shorter, darker, more difficult to control) make it less beautiful? Does hair being different mean that it is something to tease someone about or try to make them change?
5. Would you rather be beautiful or healthy? Which is more important? Is it harder to be ugly or to be truly unhealthy? Why?
6. How does it feel to be outside surrounded by beautiful plants? Is it easy to build a garden with so many different, beautiful plants in it? It's difficult, so why would someone do all that work?
7. How do you think Miss Tillie felt when her tree was destroyed? Did she give up? Why not? Would it have been easier to give up?
8. How does Mack feel when Miss Tillie compares her hair to the plants? Do you think it's true that just like plants, all different kinds of hair are beautiful? Does everyone in your class have the exact same hair? Does everyone's hair look good how it is so long as they take care of it?
9. How are words like seeds? If we think bad words about our selves and others, will that grow good things or bad ones? Why should we be careful with our words toward ourselves and others?