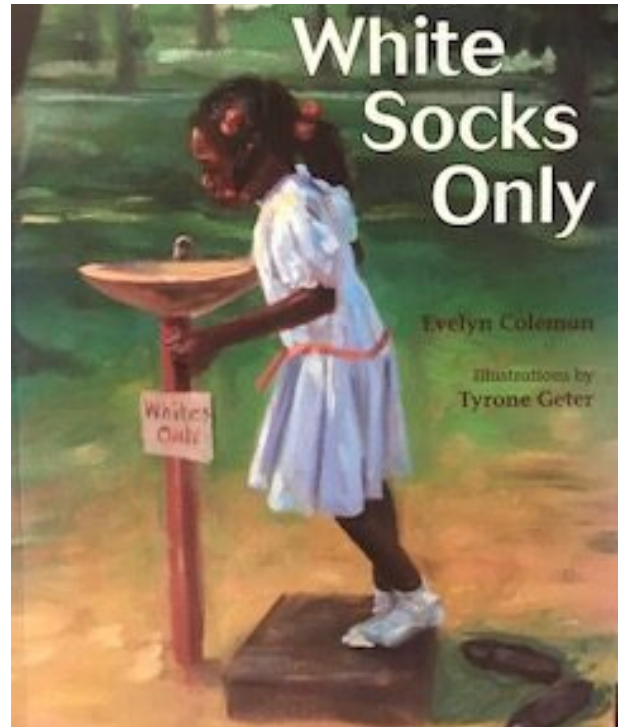




WHITE SOCKS ONLY

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When she wants to go into town all on her own, her grandmother tells the story of the first time she went into the town on her own, saying she won't be ready until she can do some good. When she went into town for the first time on her own she wanted to fry an egg on the sidewalk. When she's thirsty she takes a drink from a water fountain that says "Whites Only", first taking off her black shoes. Is that what the sign means? What will happen when others get angry that she drank from the fountain?



Questions:

1. Do your grandparents ever tell you stories from when they were young? Do you listen? Should you listen? How do you think they feel when you don't listen?
2. Have you ever gone for a long walk when it's really hot outside? Is it fun to walk in the heat? Why do you think she's walking so far when it's so hot? Is she planning to do something good?
3. Have you ever gotten caught doing something you shouldn't by one of your parent's friends? How did it feel? How do you think she feels while she hides?
4. Was the reason she came to town to do something good or something fun? Should she have asked her parents first? How do you think her parents are feeling when she's not at home?
5. How did she feel when the white man pulled her away and knocked her to the ground? How did she feel when he took off his belt to whip her with? Should anyone ever have to feel like that?
6. Does the sign "whites only" refer to their shoes? It refers to her skin. Is that fair? How would it feel for people to treat you differently for something you can't change, like the color of your skin? Is there anything different about the hearts and minds of people who have different skin colors?
7. Why was the man so angry about them drinking from the water fountain? This was how things were in America for a long time- white people could hurt black people however they wanted and black and white people had to stay separate. Was that good? On the inside, in our hearts, are we more the same or more different?
8. In the beginning, how did she feel about the Chicken Man? How does she feel about him now? Is it okay to change your mind when you learn something new about someone or something? If you find out you're wrong, does it make you stronger to admit it or to stick with the wrong idea?
9. Did she do something good? Is it possible to do something good by accident?