

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

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This biography tells the real-life story of a boy who cycled across Ghana with only one leg, forcing his country to rethink how they treat people with disabilities. His name is Emmanuel Ofosu Yeboah, and he is a reminder of how one person can impact the world!

Strategy Instruction Possibilities

Comprehension

- Set purpose for reading: This is a great book to expose students to differently abled people and show them how each person has the power to effect change in our world.
 - December: International Day of Persons with Disabilities (12/3); Human Rights Day (12/10)
 - April: Celebrate Diversity Month; Limb Loss and Limb Difference Awareness Month
 - October: Global Diversity Awareness Month
- Use prior knowledge to predict and connect with text: We all have obstacles in life. This book closely examines one person's fight to persevere against massive odds.
 - Before reading, take a close look at the cover of the text. Have students discuss what they notice or wonder about, or any possible connections they have to the cover art.
 - While reading, point out how Emmanuel really needed a bike that was a "good fit." Ask students what they've learned about the importance of a "good fit."
 - After reading, think of other examples of characters who persevere when life is challenging.
- Analyze how visual elements integrate and contribute to the meaning of text: The illustrator uses imagery to communicate meaning and the tone of the characters throughout the text.
 - Closely analyze the visual elements of this text while revisiting the story days after the first or second read. This time, focus primarily on the illustrations. Allow students to identify what they notice and wonder about as you pause to reflect during a picture walk. Discuss with students the importance of the pictures in this type of story.

Expand Vocabulary

- Tune in to interesting words: *Ghana, West Africa; useless; curse; faith; comfort; disabilities (disability); crutches; respect; rent; balance; market; boarded; shopkeepers; beg; unable; impossible; Challenged Athletes Foundation; San Diego, California; persuaded; bustling; Accra; odum forests; plantain farms; Kumasi; grasslands; ancient city of Tamale; physical challenges; astounding*

Writing

- We are all different and unique, but we also have many things in common. A great way to explore our similarities and differences is through peer interviews. Have students form questions about their curiosities and partner with a peer to share their story and learn about someone new. Ask students to identify how they are alike and different, highlighting what makes the other person unique.
- Plan a call to action: I'm an army veteran who taught in a military town, and the [Carry Forward 5K](#) with the [Wounded Warrior Project](#) brought awareness of various types of disabilities, including ones that are not visible, to my students in an especially relevant way while also communicating that we are all in this together. As a class, decide how you will collectively bring about awareness of an important cause. Encourage students to be the change they want to see. Even as children, their voices are important to our world. Create space for opportunities by asking, "How can we impact the world today?"

Additional Resources

- Background information for the educator: [Emmanuel's Ride: An Inspiring True Story](#)
- After reading: [An Update on Emmanuel Ofosu Yeboah | SuperSoul Sunday | Oprah Winfrey Network](#)
- Visit the [Emmanuel's Educational Foundation and Sports Academy](#) website to learn more about Emmanuel and the progress of a school he is building for children with different abilities.