

The Refelection in Me

AUTHOR

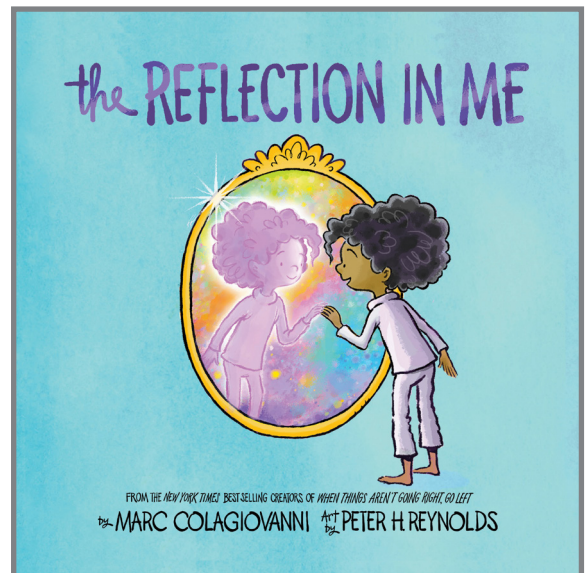
MARC COLAGIOVANNI

ILLUSTRATOR

PETER H. REYNOLDS

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SYNOPSIS

*'I like being you,' said the reflection in the mirror.
'To me, you are perfectly perfect.'*

When you see your reflection, always remember that the real magic comes from within.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Marc Colagiovanni is a children's book author who is also a practicing attorney in the US. While he is honoured to be a part of the legal profession and enjoys the practice of law, his true passion is writing. Marc currently resides in Cranston, Rhode Island, US with his wife and three daughters.

Find out more about Marc at marccolagiovanni.com.

ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

Peter H. Reynolds is the beloved author and illustrator of many children's books, including *Happy Dreamer* and *New York Times* bestsellers *Say Something!*, *The Word Collector* and *Be You!*. His books have been translated into over 25 languages around the globe and are celebrated worldwide.

Visit Peter online at peterhreynolds.com.

STUDY NOTES

- Before reading the story, as a class, discuss the book cover and title. Some things to include in your discussion could be:
 - What is happening in the cover artwork?
 - Who do you think this story is about?
 - What are some of the things that you predict might happen in this story?
 - What is a reflection?
 - What do you think the title is talking about?
- Look in the mirror at your own eyes. Do they sparkle? What colours are in them?
 - Using all the colours you can see in your eyes, paint a picture of something special to you. Use glitter sprinkled on your painting to make sure that your picture sparkles just like your eyes!

- The person in the mirror uses a lot of similes in their descriptions. As a class, discuss what a simile is, how we can identify them, and why authors use them in their writing. Try to think up some similes of your own!
 - In small groups, reread the story, and identify all the similes used. Choose one of the similes, and draw a picture inspired by it.
- What does it mean when someone does something ‘sheepishly’? How do you think the character in the book is feeling when they grin ‘sheepishly’? What other types of things can someone do sheepishly? Write a sentence or paragraph that uses the word sheepish or sheepishly to describe someone doing something.
- Why do we think of butterflies as being gentle? What might happen to a butterfly that wasn’t gentle? Paint a picture of a big and beautiful (and gentle!) butterfly. Fold a piece of paper in half, then open it out flat again. Use thick dollops of acrylic, poster, or washable paint to paint half a butterfly on one side of the page. Carefully fold the page in half again along the crease, and press down to smear the paint onto both sides of the page. Open up your page to see your beautiful butterfly revealed. Once your picture is dry, use black marker to add details such as antennae or wing outlines.
- Go outside to the oval or another grassy open area, then twirl around on the spot as fast as you can, just like the person in the book. When you start to feel dizzy sit down and feel the world spin around you just like they did. When you return to class, discuss what it was like when you were spinning, and what it felt like when you stopped! Older classes can write about, and then illustrate, this experience with a picture of the world spinning around them. Think about how they can show apparent movement in their artwork before they start.
- In the book, it says ‘But most of all . . . I like your heart. Your kindness is as beautiful as a rainbow.’ Why do you think that kindness is seen as the most important characteristic? What does it feel like when someone else is kind to you? As a class, discuss how important kindness is to all of us, every day. Brainstorm all the little ways we can show kindness to others in our daily lives, and make a list of them all. As a class, use the list to help you make a poster that shares all the different ways that you have thought of being kind to others, and hang the poster on the classroom wall to remind everyone of all the little things we can do that make the world a better place.
- What message do you think the author is trying to share with everyone by writing this book? Why do you think it is so important that we all appreciate the good things about ourselves?
- Sometimes, it can be hard to think of the things that are positive about ourselves, but easier to think of what we like about other people. As a class, attach a blank piece of paper to everyone’s back, then move around the classroom writing what you like about different people on the piece of paper pinned to their backs. Make sure to write on everyone’s piece of paper, and be sure that what you write is positive and encouraging. When you have finished, take the pieces of paper off and read all the good things that are on yours. Are any of the things a surprise to you? Is there anything that you thought might be written on your page that wasn’t? Think about what you would like to see written on your page in future, and practise being the person who has those good things written about them.
- Read the words inside the mirror at the end of the story. Who is the author talking to with these words? Why do you think he wanted to share this message with everyone at the end of his story? How does reading this message make you feel and why?
- On a page of A4 paper draw an oval mirror outline like the mirror at the end of the story. Inside it, on the surface of the mirror, write a message to yourself, sharing one thing that you like about who you are. It can be something about the way you look, something about the things you do, or something about how you feel about the world. If you want to, you can reread the story for inspiration on the types of things you might want to say. Once you have written your message to yourself, colour your mirror and decorate the rest of the page using the artwork in the story as inspiration. Can you make your mirror look like it glints and sparkles just like the one in the book? If so, share with your friends and classmates how to do this, so everyone can have a sparkling mirror framing their words.
- Create an acrostic poem using your name or nickname, and use each line of the poem to describe a positive aspect of yourself. Pin your poem up on the wall to remind you of all the good things about yourself that you can see when you look in the mirror every day.

AUTHOR OF NOTES

RAE CARLYLE