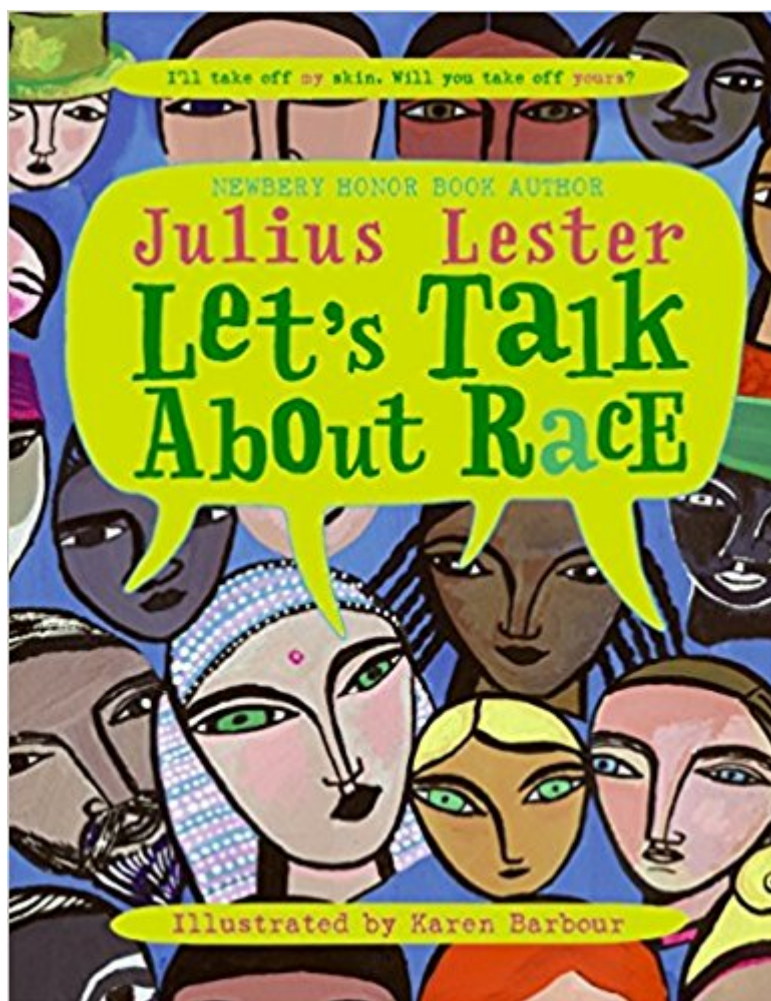


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# Let's Talk About Race



## Synopsis

"This gorgeous book is great to read with kids of any age—allows for open-ended conversation and questions." (Brightly.com) In this acclaimed book, the author of the Newbery Honor Book *To Be a Slave* shares his own story as he explores what makes each of us special. Karen Barbour's dramatic, vibrant paintings speak to the heart of Lester's unique vision, truly a celebration of all of us. "This stunning picture book introduces race as just one of many chapters in a person's story" (School Library Journal). "Lester's poignant picture book helps children learn, grow, discuss, and begin to create a future that resolves differences" (Children's Literature). Julius Lester says, "I write because our lives are stories. If enough of these stories are told, then perhaps we will begin to see that our lives are the same story. The differences are merely in the details." "I am a story. So are you. So is everyone."

## Book Information

Paperback: 32 pages

Publisher: HarperCollins; Reprint edition (December 23, 2008)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0064462269

ISBN-13: 978-0064462266

Product Dimensions: 8.5 x 0.1 x 11 inches

Shipping Weight: 5 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 3.9 out of 5 stars 33 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #7,485 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #2 in [Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > Tolerance](#) #8 in [Books > Children's Books > Biographies > Multicultural](#) #10 in [Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Explore the World > United States](#)

Age Range: 4 - 8 years

Grade Level: 1 - 5

## Customer Reviews

Starred Review. Grade 1-5 - This stunning picture book introduces race as just one of many chapters in a person's story. Beginning with the line, "I am a story," Lester tells his own story with details that kids will enjoy, like his favorite food, hobbies, and time of day. Then he states, "Oh. There's something else that is part of my story—I'm black." Throughout the narrative, he asks questions that young readers can answer, creating a dialogue about who they are and encouraging

them to tell their own tales. He also discusses "stories" that are not always true, pointing out that we create prejudice by perceiving ourselves as better than others. He asks children to press their fingers against their faces, pointing out, "Beneath everyone's skin are the same hard bones." Remove our skin and we would all look the same. Lester's engaging tone is just right and his words are particularly effective, maintaining readers' interest and keeping them from becoming defensive. The pairing of text and dazzling artwork is flawless. The paintings blend with the words and extend them, transporting readers away from a mundane viewpoint and allowing them to appreciate a common spiritual identity. This wonderful book should be a first choice for all collections and is strongly recommended as a springboard for discussions about differences. - Mary Hazelton, Warren Community School and Miller Elementary School, ME Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

K-Gr. 3. With an chatty, interactive text that is clearly meant to generate discussion, and vividly colored, mixed-media artwork, this book, like bell hooks' *Skin Again* [BKL S 15 04], considers race as only one aspect of a person's identity. Lester begins with a look at prejudice. He then goes anatomical: "beneath everyone's skin are the same hard bones." Without clothes, skin, and hair, everyone looks the same. Well, gender sameness doesn't quite work (women's pelvic bones, for example, are larger), but kids will laugh at the notion of stripping down to the skeleton. They'll also think about the concept, especially because Lester speaks so personally, not only as a proud black man but also about where he lives and what he likes and dislikes. Barbour's pictures have a folkart feeling that aptly shows a rich diversity of individuals as well as the common humanity that connects people everywhere. Hazel Rochman Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Beautiful art but not at all what I expected. I wanted an elementary-level explanation about how the cultural and social implications of race can be positive and yet also about the complicated history of racial oppression. This book implies that noticing racial differences is negative and seems to advocate a color blind ideology. Now I have to try to find a book that talks about what it means to be a racial minority in Western civilization in a kid-friendly way.

good

Amazing book. 5/5. It has a great message and has really taught my stepdaughter a lot about race.

Beautifully written book and very touching. Great way to introduce the subject of race to small children. An essential book for everyone.

This is a great book! It allows adults to begin a conversation with young children about the importance of respecting everyone's story. I highly recommend this book!

Great book to get conversations started!

Excellent book.

This text is a perfect book to use with third and fourth graders. Students begin to see "differences" at this age and Lester teaches his readers that we are all essentially the same, but with our own unique stories. This is a fantastic text to use as a model for creating character maps, personal story maps and creating podcasts for student book talks.

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