

Social Justice Literature

Title of Book: Elmer

Author: David McKee

Publisher/year: Andersen Press 2007

ISBN: 978-1-894270-731-9

What social topic/s does this book address:

- Self-concept

Brief synopsis of the book: Elmer looks different than all the other elephants. Even though the other elephants accept Elmer for who he is, he's not comfortable looking different. He rolls in berries to look like the others but in doing so, becomes unhappy. He discovers that he's most happy when he accepts being different. The other elephants celebrate his 'true colours' by decorating themselves to be unique.

Is this story authentic in regard to:

- characters

Is this story:

- Respectful
- Engaging
- Honoring our differences

Does this story directly talk about the social topic or does it tell a story using a social topic as a subtle background?

Social topic as a subtle background.

Would you read this story to your class? yes

Would you want your child's teacher to read this story? yes

What big ideas or questions do you see emerging from this book?

- Peer pressure can lead us to do things even if we're not comfortable doing them.
- Elmer wasn't pressured into changing but put pressure upon himself to be like the others.
- Can we be comfortable with our own 'being' even though our heart isn't in it?