



He's Got the Whole World in His Hands

written and illustrated by Kadir Nelson



READS

Reading and Activity Guide

BEFORE READING

- + Ask students if they know the song "He's Got the Whole World in His Hands". Sing the first verse! Who is the song talking about - who's holding the world?
- + Point out that this book was illustrated by a man named Kadir Nelson. The pictures are beautiful!! Invite the students to pay close attention to each beautiful scene.

DURING READING

- + This book shows families doing different activities - drawing, fishing, swimming, enjoying the outdoors - what types of activities do you enjoy doing with your family?
- + "Everybody there": Do you have family or friends in another state, country, or maybe even on a different continent?? Isn't it so reassuring to know that God holds THEM in His hands, too? AND - aaaaalllll the other people in the whole world! Think about that - people that you have never met before, people who look like us and people who don't look like us - God loves them all and takes special care of them.

AFTER READING

- + Discuss Mia's question: Can you name someone we can pray for - or remind - that God is holding them in His hands? It could be someone here, or someone there! Pray.
- + Wow, these illustrations were just so beautiful! Which one was your favorite?
- + How do you think the illustrator, Kadir Nelson, created these illustrations? What materials do you think he might have used? (Are these photographs? Paint? Clay?)
- + That's right, you can tell that he used PAINT - he painted these illustrations. Now...what do you think: did he sit down at his canvas and paint each picture all in one go? Or did he have to carefully plan and sketch things out, before painting? Yes! He planned and sketched.

Springboard Activity: Illustrator Study

- + Select some other beautiful artwork to display from Kadir Nelson's Gallery. (Fun idea: Set up multiple pictures around the room like a "museum". May want to include title and medium used.)
- + Kadir Nelson typically posts his sketches and painting process on his Instagram page. Click a painting and scroll through to view each image of his process, like this one, entitled, "Down the Line: Centennial Edition."
- + Ask younger students to describe what's happening in the painting - Tell about a time you've done something similar to that! What colors did he use? Did he have to mix any paints to make those colors? What shapes can you spy? How do you think the people in the painting feel?
- + Ask older students to describe what they see in the painting. Imagine yourself there, in the painting, in the moment...How do you feel? How do you think Kadir Nelson wants us to feel? What message might he be trying to tell us through his painting?
- + Give students paper to carefully sketch out a drawing of a classmate/loved one doing something they love or at a place that is special to them. (Younger students can practice using shapes to draw people, or you can draw it for them.) Then, paint! :)



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