



# The colors of Us

written and illustrated by Karen Katz



## Reading and Activity Guide

### BEFORE READING

- + God created you. As a potter forms clay, God formed you. Read this Bible verse: *“But now, O Lord, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand.” (Isaiah 64:8)* Why is it special to be the work of God’s hand? What does a potter do to make each pot unique? Children may talk about size, shape, or color.
- + In the story, you’ll meet a girl name Lena. Lena meets many people whose skin is all different shades. Think of who you know or have recently seen whose skin is a different shade than yours.

### DURING READING

- + Lena realizes that each person’s skin color is a different shade of brown, and each shade of brown reminds her of a yummy food or beautiful item found in nature. Name three characters and the food or nature paired with them.

### AFTER READING

- + Why is Lena happy to use different colors of paint for her artwork at the end of the story?
- + Lena realized that having different skin shades is part of what makes us all unique. Why do you think God made so many different shades of skin for His children?
- + Remember that no matter what someone’s shade of skin is, they are all God’s children and He loves them and in turn we love them. *“We love because God first loved us.” (1 John 4:19)* If you saw someone treat another person differently because of their skin, what would you say or do?

### Springboard Activities:

**Activity #1: Beauty Walk** - Beauty comes in every shade and color. Go on walk outside while looking for something of every color that is beautiful. As you do, discuss with the people you’re with why each object is beautiful in its own way.

**Activity #2: Portraits and Poems**- Find paints in these four colors: black, white, red, and yellow. Mix together the paints gradually until you find just the right shade for you. Look in the mirror and hold up your palate to see how close you are getting. When you have it right, paint your own self-portrait with the shade that fits you best. Then think of something that matches your skin color; are you creamy peanut butter or rich chocolate or golden honey? It doesn’t have to be food related nor does it have to come from the book. Write it down. After completing yours, think of someone you love (friend, family member, special adult, etc) and look at them or their picture in order to find their perfect shade and write a short line about them. Do this as many times as you like to show how beautifully God created His people. Maybe like Lena, you’ll end up with a book of your own! (Consider adding these crayons to your collection to create a beautifully diverse palate.)

**Activity #3: God’s Beautiful Plan** - Imagine if everybody looked the same. What a different place the world would be! So much beauty would be missing. God’s plan was to color the world in every color and shade, so that is exactly what He did. Pray together as a family, thanking God for all the colors and shades that fill this world.

