

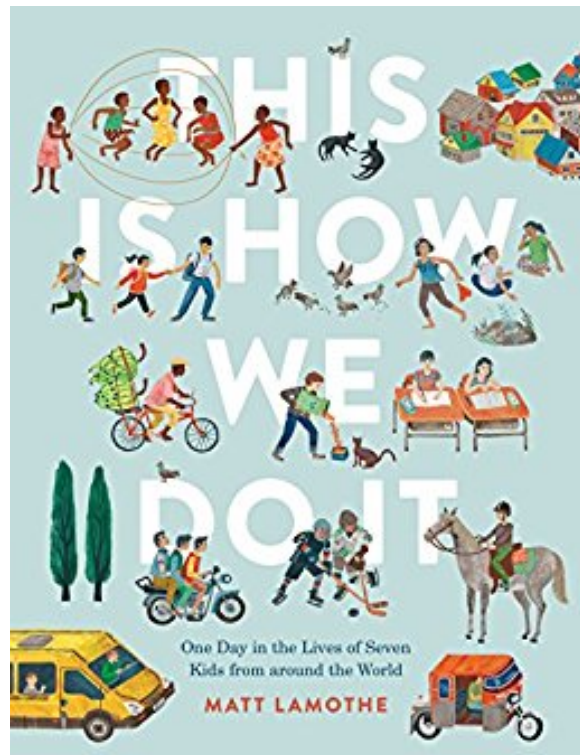
**JoLLE@UGA<sup>®</sup>**  
JOURNAL OF LANGUAGE & LITERACY EDUCATION

**Review of *This is How We Do It*  
By Matt Lamothe**

Adult/Educator Reviewer: Jason D. Mizell

The University of Georgia, Athens, GA

Student Review: Yashar Harris & Dylan Mizell, 8<sup>th</sup> Grade



Lamothe, M. (2017). *This is how we do it*. San Francisco, CA: Chronicle Books.

ISBN: 978-1452150185

### Adult Review: Jason D. Mizell

This thoughtfully put together book allows the reader to catch a glimpse into the everyday lives of seven kids who live in different parts of the world. The author, through conversations with the seven-year-old protagonist, allows the reader to see where they live, with whom they live, what they wear to school and even what activities that they engage in after school. The seven profiled kids are positioned as agents as they take part in various activities. The children are drawn in such a way as to invite the reading public to engage/connect with them as individuals not as stylized representations of everyone that lives in their home countries. I especially loved having the opportunity to see real pictures of the young protagonist and their families at the end of the book. The pictures were taken full on so that the viewing audience is able to make eye contact with each family and thus forge a sense of connection and familiarity.

As someone that was born in the US, but who lived abroad for many years and only recently returned with my foreign-born son and spouse to the US, I relished the chance to read a book that would potentially give me and others a chance to glimpse how others live. Learning about and seeing how similar we are to others

“Learning about and seeing how similar we are to others while at the same time coming to appreciate our differences is important to me as I work to help other to embrace schools that are being increasingly diverse.”

while at the same time coming to appreciate our differences is important to me as I work to help others to embrace schools that are being increasingly diverse.

I believe that this book will appeal to K-5 teachers who want to expose their students to young children between the ages of 6 and 11. Additionally, this book will appeal to parents who embrace multicultural children’s literature as one way of helping their own children to see representations of themselves in books and/or want an opportunity to let their children see how others live around the world.

The author, Matt Lamothe, writes in the closing pages of the book under the section “Meet the Families”, that he wanted to allow others to catch a glimpse into the lived experiences of families from different parts of the world. Although that was his goal, he was very explicit in stating that he did not intend for this glimpse to be interpreted as the way that everyone in that country lives. I believe that it is important that educators preface this book with that thought in mind. They need to make it clear to their students that this is just a glimpse into the lives of these seven kids and although they may be somewhat typical they are not representative of the experiences of everyone who lives in the profiled seven countries.

### Student Review: Yashar Harris

I would recommend this book to someone because, I would like for other people to know about different people and how they live their daily lives.

I believe that people who enjoy learning about others will like this book.

“Other people from around the world get to study other cultures from different places.”

I would recommend this book to xenophobic people because they need to learn to like and understand more about diverse cultures and come to like the styles of other cultures.

What I like the best about this book is how there’s so much information about different people’s homes and lifestyles.

### **Student Review: Dylan Mizell**

This book is important because people should learn how other kids live in their countries and how they experience their lives. When you learn to understand other people, you come to accept and appreciate them.

I would recommend this book to other people because I loved how each page showed you how the kids live their lives. I could see how they go to school, what activities they take part in after school and even what chores they have. Their lives in many ways are similar to mine. I also have to go to school and do chores.

People who care about children will like this book and might even read it. Teachers that want kids to learn about other kids in other parts of the world should read this.

I like this book because it shows different cultures and different things that they use or wear. I also liked see that they kids were not shown as just poor or not having stuff like is shown in other books about kids from different countries.

“When you learn to understand other people, you come to accept and appreciate them.”