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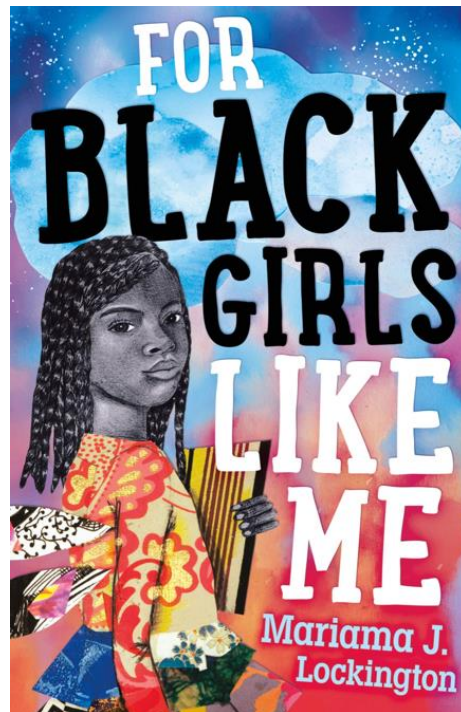
Review of *For Black Girls Like Me*

Written by Mariama J. Lockington

Adult/Educator Reviewer: Jennifer Fraser

The University of Georgia, Athens, GA

Student Reviewer: Chase Veitch & Heba Hameed, 6th grade



Lockington, M. J. (2019). *For black girls like me*. New York, NY: Farrar, Straus and Giroux.

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Adult Review: Jennifer Fraser

Keda is an African American girl adopted by a white family that already has a white daughter. Although Keda loves her family, she does not always feel like she fits in. Her situation can make her feel uncomfortable or misunderstood. To make matters worse, Keda's family decides to move and Keda has to say goodbye to her one friend who she really felt understood her. Starting sixth grade in a new school is a struggle for Keda, as Keda's own mother starts to crumple because of depression. In the end, it is the bonds of sisterhood, family, and friendship that help Keda to deal with all her problems.

I chose to review this book because of the interesting perspective it offered. This book shows how a black girl feels growing up with a white family. This book will appeal to young, black females, but it is also a story that many other young tweens and teens could benefit from hearing. The book teaches a lot about understanding others and being accepting of people that differ from you. It is for lovers of realistic fiction and young romance. It delves into many topics like bullying, relationships, and mental health. While this book is more geared towards girls, it has the potential to teach male audiences about the inner workings of relationships between girl friends and sisters.

Educators need to be very cautious before sharing this book with their students. Although I do not want to spoil this book, I need to warn educators that there is a suicide attempt in the novel. It is not extremely graphic, but it is really saddening, and it is there. Be aware that this may be a trigger for more sensitive students. The book also includes one scene where the family comes across a naked man at the hot springs and a scene where the "n" word is used derogatively towards the main character. The book has a ton of potential to teach important and valuable lessons, but educators need to be aware of how some of the content may affect their students.

Student Review: Chase Veitch

First off, can I just say that I love this book? Like, love love this book. I just love how she puts so many different genres of book styles into one single book to make the same point.

Coming from a kid who has been adopted, I know what it is like being adopted. It is surprising, even if you know. Or, if you do not know, you will not believe it. I know I did not at first. But then you start to realize it, and then it starts to make sense.

My parents were poor. And they already had my brother, and they were living in other people's houses. I am getting off topic... all I am saying is, I can relate. I can see why the one character would want to try to commit suicide, but it is just something I do not want to put in the review. Anyway, I love this book. That is my review of *For Black Girls Like Me*. Bye.

Student Review: Heba Hameed

I think this book is important because many people can relate to it. For example, people who have insecurities about their skin tone can know that it is okay to be different. Or, people can relate to getting questions about their life before being adopted. Many people get frustrated and annoyed knowing that people are bothering them on purpose because they are from a different country than their real family, or they have a different skin color. They get bullied too by how they look and how they live and how they sound.

I think it is important for people to know that NOBODY is truly "normal." All people are different from where they live to their size, shape, hair, teeth, and so on. Sometimes people get hurt if someone says they are not normal. But in a lot of times, the people

who ask the questions do not know what questions they are asking. Knowing this from the book can get people to be braver too!

Another reason why I think the book is important is because making friends is hard. Getting to know them and seeing if they are good friends and will be accepting you, is hard. It's hard to be friends with and find people who will not judge. It is hard because many people are fake. People can relate in many ways to this part of the book.

Lastly, family is important in the book. Many kids can get worried about their parents. Makeda did. She did not know what to say to stop her parents from arguing, and like I said, many people can relate because a lot of kids have divorced parents. Some have to switch houses and some have not even met their parents. Since Makeda has not met her birth-mom, she is scared for her real parents, but she believes nothing will happen. Many can relate. Those are all my reasons why I think this book is important!