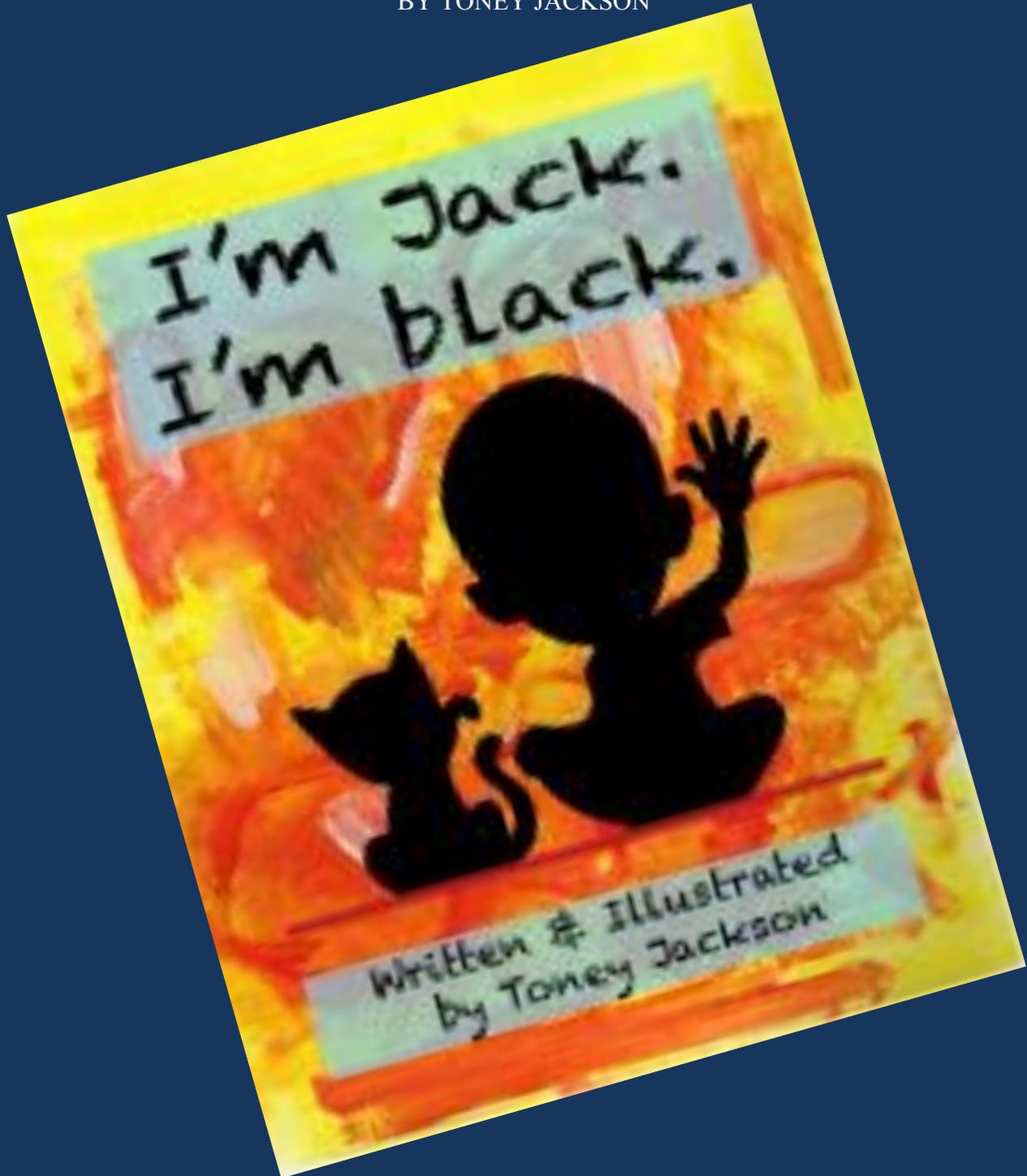


I'm Jack. I'm Black

BY TONEY JACKSON



EDUCATOR'S GUIDE



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PRE-READING ACTIVITY

Talk with students about what it means to be a friend. Ask questions such as:

What kind of things might friends do together?

How do friends treat each other?

Why are friends important?

How can you be a good friend to others?

CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS/ POST-READING ACTIVITIES

LANGUAGE ARTS

- Think of as many adjectives as they can to describe Jack and his friend Max. Also, have them think of verbs to describe things that Jack and Max like to do together.
- Find and classify nouns, verbs and adjectives.
- Find and write rhyming words in the text.
- Write a letter to Jack.
- Write a letter to the people who stayed away from Jack because he was different. What could you say to them to help them make better choices about how to treat others?
- Draw a picture of yourself with your best friend. Show the places that you like to go together and things that you like to do. Write about your picture(s).

** Additional activities/worksheets included*



SCIENCE

- Discuss having pets as friends. Why might some animals make good pets and others not?
- Discuss cats. These friendly, fascinating mammals have been human companions throughout history. The feline family includes some of the cutest and cuddliest creatures, as well as some of the most powerful and regal animals on the planet.



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THEMATIC CONNECTIONS

Friendship

Friends are important for everyone! Friends can make us feel better when we are sad, and can help us not to feel lonely. Jack's friendship with Max is central to the story. Despite being very different on the outside the two share many things in common, and have many things that they enjoy doing together. Having a good friend helps Jack to feel good about himself even when the actions of others are mean or hurtful. We should always be open to new friendships, and remember to focus on the things that we have in common with each other instead of our differences. There are always new friends out there waiting to meet you! Some of them may look different than you, or eat different foods, or have different abilities, or speak different languages. These differences make us special. Let's always remember to learn about and embrace the things that make us all special.

Prejudice

Prejudice means judging or having an opinion about someone or something before you actually know them. If we show prejudice towards others we are not being fair. Sometimes people treat others differently because of their race, gender, religion, appearance, or some other silly reason. If someone acts mean or rude towards another person because of something that is different about him or her they may be acting prejudiced towards the other person. We should not make comments about "all people" that have something in common. We haven't met all of them to know if that is true! We should always think about how we might feel if someone were making judgments about us, before meeting us. Sometimes prejudice can be something we learn from other people. It is important to always keep an open mind when meeting people who are different from us in some way.

Other connected themes: Self-confidence/Self-esteem, Bullying, Stereotypes



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Read this poem and discuss what it means to you. Next, try writing your own poem!

All the Same

Different hair
Different skin
Different outside
Same within

Different language
Different names
In our hearts
All the same

-T.Jackson



Who I Am?

Draw your face in the circle in the middle of the page. Write your first name on the top line. Write one positive adjective that describes you, in each box.

I'm _____
(First Name)

I'm

I'm

I'm

I'm

I'm

I'm

Name _____

Date _____

Word Family Worksheet

'Jack' and **'Black'** both belong in the **-ack** word family.

Think of 5 other words ending with **-ack**

Use some of the words above, in sentences.

Name _____

Date _____

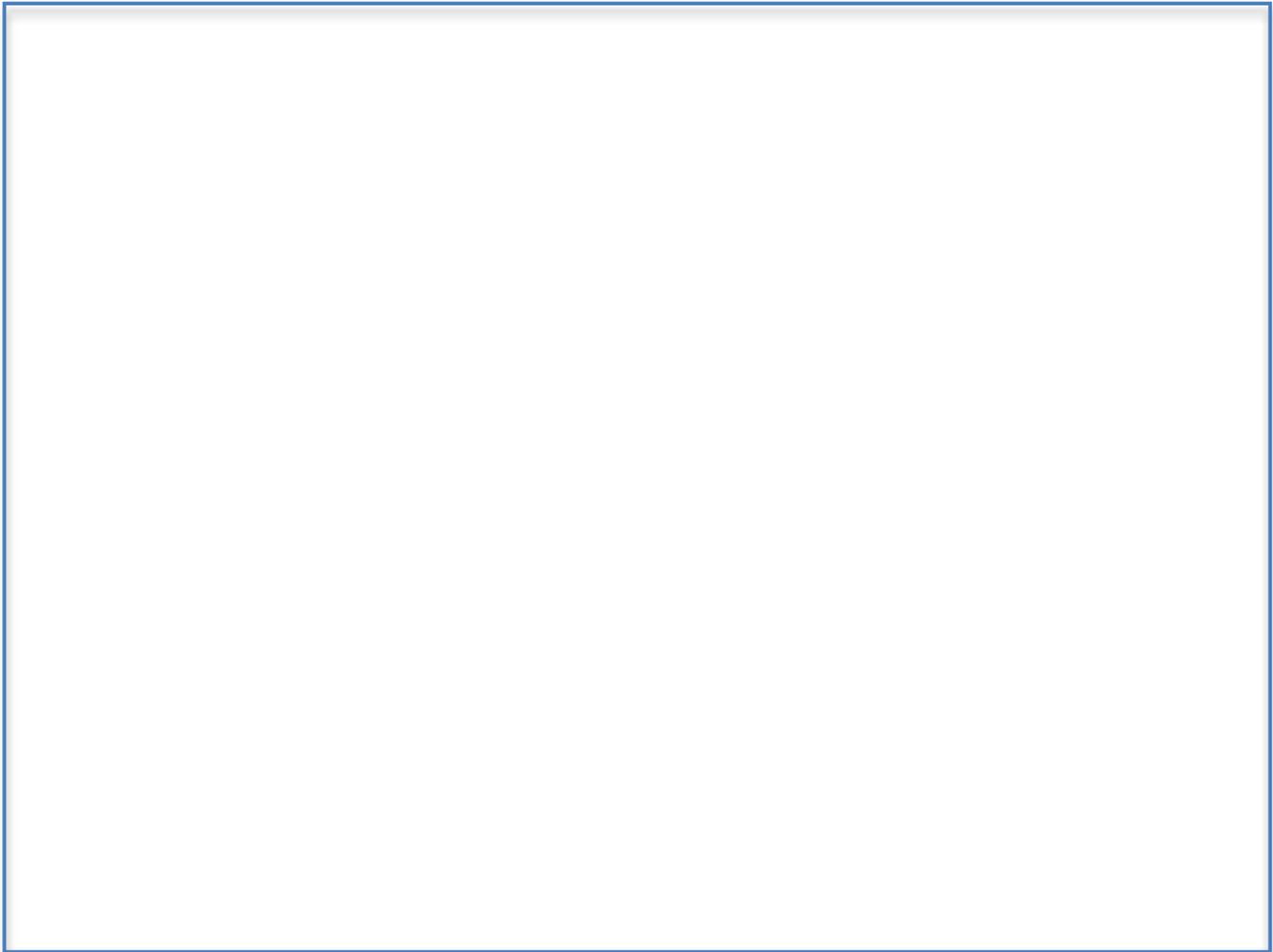


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Draw a picture of you, Jack and Max playing together.



Write about what you, Jack and Max are doing in the picture.

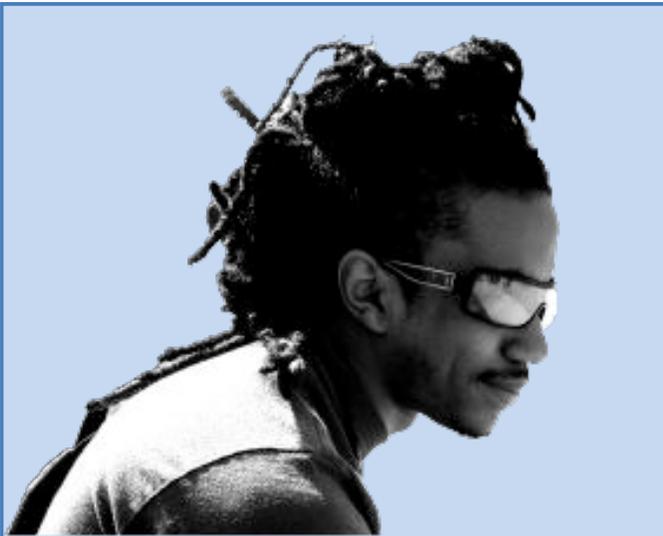


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About the Author



Toney Jackson is a visual artist, writer, poet, performer, speaker and educator, holding a BFA in visual arts, and a M.Ed in Differentiated Instruction. He currently teaches 4th grade at the school in which he first discovered his passion for art and books. Toney lives in Hackensack, NJ, with his cat Ceri and his growing collection of children's books.

Other books by T. Jackson:

