In Ghana, West Africa, Emmanuel Ofosu Yeboah was born with only one strong leg. This is the inspirational true story of a young boy who overcame physical and societal challenges and showed his country that disability does not mean inability. After bicycling four hundred miles around Ghana in just ten days—with one strong leg—he became a national hero. Filled with messages of courage, perseverance, self-reliance, interdependence, and respect, Emmanuel’s Dream: The True Story of Emmanuel Ofosu Yeboah will teach children that believing in oneself is the greatest ability of all.
EMMANUEL’S DREAM:  
THE TRUE STORY OF  
EMMANUEL OFOSU YEBOAH  
by Laurie Ann Thompson; illustrated by Sean Qualls

CLASSROOM CONNECTIONS  
DISCUSSION GUIDE

1. What is it like in the village where Emmanuel lives? What do you know about Emmanuel’s family and home? What are the clues from the text and illustrations? Why does Emmanuel’s father leave and never return?

2. Describe how the illustrator expresses the family’s sadness at the beginning of the story.

3. What do people think about Emmanuel at the beginning of the story? How does this make him feel?

4. How does Emmanuel see himself? Does he seem disabled to you?

5. Identify the ways Mama Comfort encourages Emmanuel to be independent.

6. Explain how Emmanuel’s friends at school encourage him to be independent.

7. What actions does Emmanuel take to be independent?

8. What choices does Emmanuel make to accept help when needed?

9. Discuss whether Emmanuel’s decision to go against his mother’s wishes, leave home for Accra, and be away from his family for two years was a good one.

10. Identify the similarities and differences between the beliefs of the people in Accra and the beliefs of the people in his village. Why did the shopkeeper apologize?

11. How are Emmanuel and his mother alike? How are they different?

12. Why do you think Emmanuel wanted to bike across Ghana? List the steps he took to make his dream a reality.

13. Do you think Emmanuel’s decision to wear a shirt with the words The Pozo was a good one? Would you have worn that shirt if you were Emmanuel? Explain.

14. Identify the ways that Emmanuel’s actions began to change the way people in Ghana thought about physical disability. How did people in his country see him differently at the end of the story?

15. Investigate how Emmanuel positively influences other characters in the story.

16. How do the illustrations show hope, determination, courage, and persistence?

17. Examine how the author began and ended the story.

18. How are you similar to and how are you different from Emmanuel?

19. Why do you think the author wrote this book? What do you think the author is trying to say? What have you learned from the book?

20. Did the story surprise you? If so, how?
POWERSFUL MESSAGES

Use Emmanuel’s Dream: The True Story of Emmanuel Ofosu Yeboah as a mentor text for this project.

Think about Emmanuel’s powerful message: Disability does not mean inability.

Write Emmanuel’s powerful message in your own words.  Illustrate Emmanuel’s message.

What is a powerful message you would like to spread to the world?

Write your powerful message.  Illustrate your powerful message.
**BIG IDEAS: COMPARE AND CONTRAST**

How are you similar to Emmanuel? How are you different?

Think deeply about the following big ideas in this text. How do these big ideas relate to Emmanuel? Give an example from the story. How do these big ideas relate to you? Give an example from your life.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Big Idea</th>
<th>Emmanuel</th>
<th>Me</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Don’t give up.</td>
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<td>Believe in your own abilities.</td>
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<td>Accept help when needed.</td>
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<td>Be brave.</td>
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<td>Be respectful.</td>
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<td>Dream big.</td>
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