

EMMANUEL'S DREAM: THE TRUE STORY OF EMMANUEL OFOSU YEBOAH

by Laurie Ann Thompson; illustrated by Sean Qualls

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Grades: Preschool–3; Ages 4–8

In Ghana, West Africa, Emmanuel Ofoosu 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 Ofoosu Yeboah* will teach children that believing in oneself is the greatest ability of all.

This guide is aligned with the Common Core Curriculum, with the following standards for the second grade. If you teach another grade, you can easily find the coordinating standard for your grade level at CoreStandards.org

Common Core Standards

Key Ideas and Details

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.2.1 Ask and answer such questions as who, what, where, when, why, and how to demonstrate understanding of key details in a text.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.2.3 Describe how characters in a story respond to major events and challenges.

Craft and Structure

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.2.5 Describe the overall structure of a story, including describing how the beginning introduces the story and the ending concludes the action.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.2.6 Acknowledge differences in the points of view of characters, including by speaking in a different voice for each character when reading dialogue aloud.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.2.6 Identify the main purpose of a text, including what the author wants to answer, explain, or describe.

Integration of Knowledge and Ideas

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.2.7 Use information gained from the illustrations and words in a print or digital text to demonstrate understanding of its characters, setting, or plot.

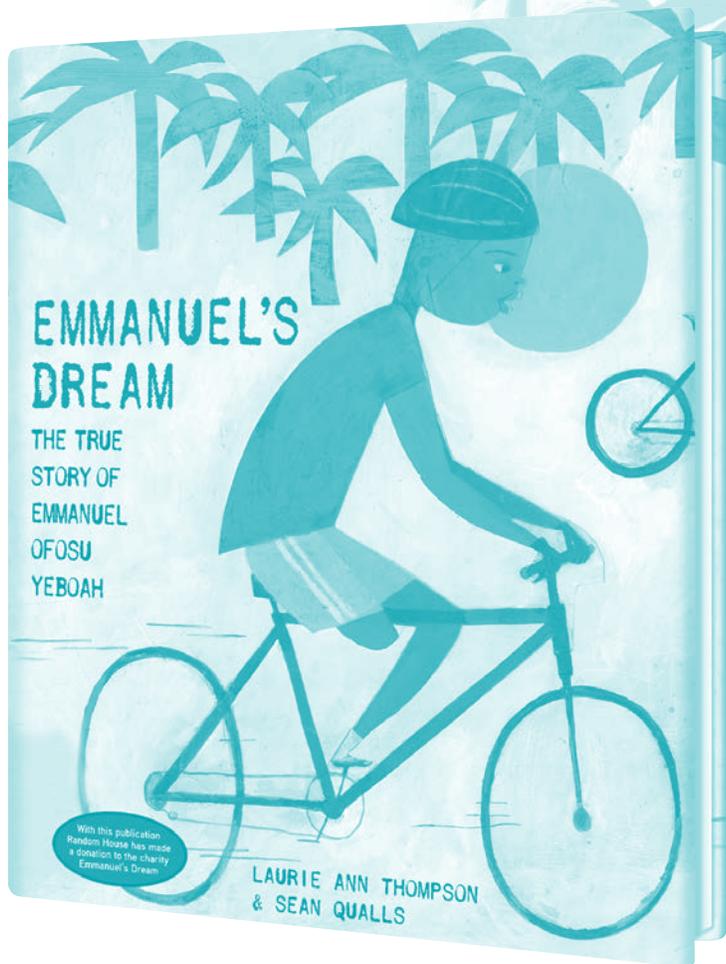
CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.2.7 Explain how specific images (e.g., a diagram showing how a machine works) contribute to and clarify a text.

Writing: Research to Build and Present Knowledge

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.2.8 Recall information from experiences or gather information from provided sources to answer a question.

Speaking and Listening: Comprehension and Collaboration

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.SL.2.2. Recount or describe key ideas or details from a text read aloud or information presented orally or through other media.
CCSS.ELA-Literacy.SL.2.3. Ask and answer questions about what a speaker says in order to clarify comprehension, gather additional information, or deepen understanding of a topic or issue.



Illustrations © 2015 by Sean Qualls

PRE-READING

Discuss the following

- Examine the cover illustration and read the title. Predict: What might the book be about? Where do you think the story takes place? What do you notice about the person on the cover?
- Read the book jacket summary. What is Emmanuel's disability? What do you think people might consider Emmanuel's inability? What is ability?
- What are some questions you have about Emmanuel before reading this book? What would you like to find out about Emmanuel by reading this book?
- Read the title page. What is the setting of the story? Use Google Maps to examine a map of Africa, then zoom in on Ghana and the cities of Accra and Koforidua.

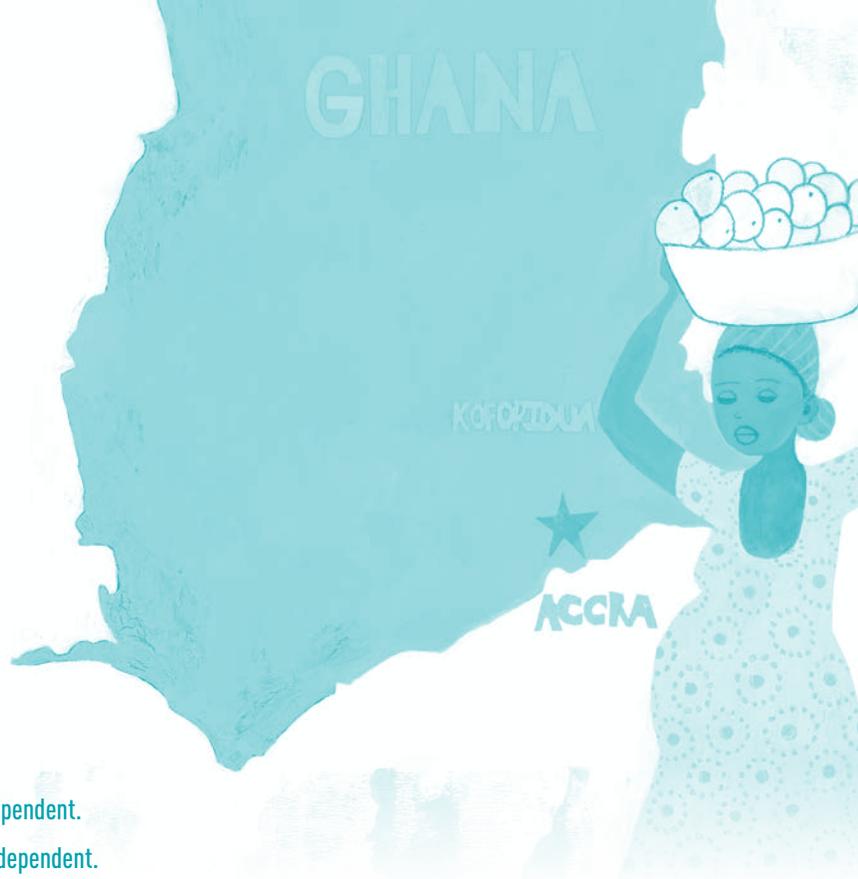


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CLASSROOM CONNECTIONS DISCUSSION GUIDE

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?



Name _____



POWERFUL 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.

Name _____

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.

Big Idea	Emmanuel	Me
Don't give up.		
Believe in your own abilities.		
Accept help when needed.		
Be brave.		
Be respectful.		
Dream big.		