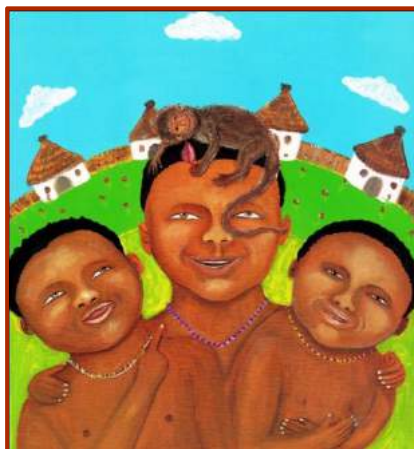


# WHOEVER YOU ARE



*Little one,  
whoever you are,  
wherever you are,  
there are little ones  
just like you  
all over the world.*

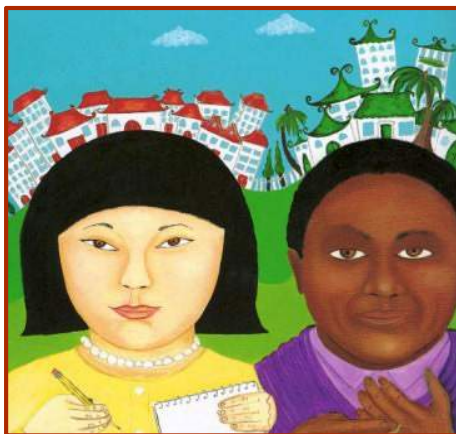


*Their skin may be*

*different from yours,  
and their homes may be  
different from yours.*



*Their schools may be  
different from yours,  
and their lands may be  
different from yours.*



*Their lives may be  
different from yours,  
and their words may be  
very different from yours.*



*But inside,  
their hearts are  
just like yours,  
whoever they are,  
wherever they are,  
all over the world.*

*Their smiles are like yours,  
and they laugh just like you.*

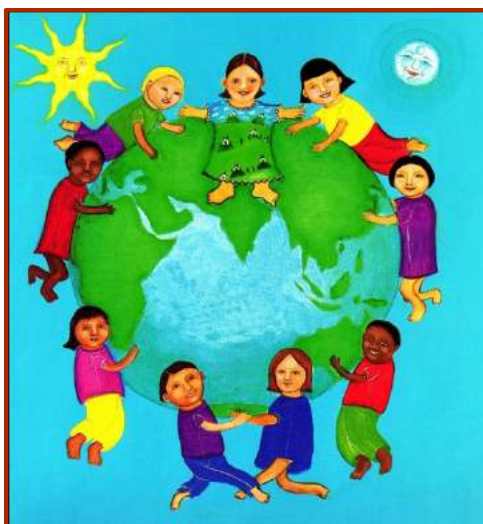


*Their hurts are like yours,  
and they cry like you, too,  
whoever they are,*

*wherever they are,  
all over the world.*



*Little one,  
when you are older  
and when you are grown,  
you may be different,  
and they may be different,  
wherever you are,  
wherever they are,  
in this big, wide world.*



*But remember this:  
Joys are the same,  
and love is the same.  
Pain is the same,  
and blood is the same.*



*Smiles are the same,  
and hearts are just the same—  
wherever they are,  
wherever you are,  
wherever we are,  
all over the world.*

*Mem Fox; Leslie Staub  
Whoever you are  
San Diego, Voyager Books, 2001*