



The Best Part of Me: Children Talk About Their Bodies in Pictures and Words

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An award-winning photographer asked several children "What is the best part of you?", and presents their answers in this sometimes funny, sometimes moving, deeply personal book that includes striking black-and-white photographs taken by the author. Ideal for parents and teacher to use to discuss body image, self-esteem, and diversity with children.

The Best Part of Me: Children Talk About Their Bodies in Pictures and Words Details

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Author : Wendy Ewald (Photographs) , Wendy Ewald

Format : Hardcover 32 pages

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From Reader Review The Best Part of Me: Children Talk About Their Bodies in Pictures and Words for online ebook

Joyce Yattoni says

Enjoyed reading this photographic picture book. Kids selected one part of their body they liked best then wrote about it. Lots of lesson plans out there. Makes for a great get to know you writing activity. Easily differentiated. Ss can go beyond the obvious uses of the body part.

Tonya Nelson says

Summary: This book compiles a list of poems and pictures that illustrate the best parts of each child author within the book. The beautifully written poems depict what each child appreciates about the best part of his/her body. Some body parts mentioned were the neck, eyes, and back. Each student's work is truly unique in the photographs, but more importantly in the reasons why they chose their specific body part. Ewald uncovers the beauty of diversity, positive self-image, and appreciation these children share for their bodies.

Characteristics to Support Genre: This book is uses images and includes elements of poetry including rhythm, rhyme, and alliteration. Some poems include similes and words that appeal the the senses.

Concepts Integrated: body image, self-esteem, diversity, anti-bullying, photography, poetry, expressive writing, writing process

Other Suggestions that could be useful regarding literary content, reading level, and other ways in which the book might be integrated: 3-5 readers

Writing – Students will identify a positive physical feature that is the best part of them and create a descriptive poem about their favorite feature. They could then revise and edit their works and eventually publish their poems. The teacher could compile these at the end of the unit and create a class book or blog with all of the students' work to display to parents and class visitors.

Art – Students could draw pictures of their best body part and explain why they chose that body part. Or they could integrate technology by using digital cameras or iPads to capture pictures of their best body part.

Science/Speaking – Students could brainstorm in groups as a jigsaw activity, each group getting a body part and coming up with the uses or reasons why the body part is liked (scientific or opinion). They could then share those with the class and present the body part their group had.

Ideas from Scholastic: <http://www.scholastic.com/teachers/le...>

Ashtar Toma says

"The Best Part of Me" is a collection of poetry that is paired with sensational black and white photography taken by the author. Children write poems about their favorite part of themselves, using their body parts as the theme in this book of poetry. The author uses children's hand-written poems in this book. "The Best Part of Me" looks at the unique parts of children and emphasizes their individual beauty.

This book is recommended for children grades 1-5 in a unit of poetry. It will allow the students to write outside the lines of typical rhyming poetry activities. When using this book in a classroom, teachers can ask their students, "What is the best part of you?" and have students write about themselves. Teachers can provide students with the creative ability to create their own types of poetry using descriptive language and pair those poems with photography taken by the teacher.

Theresa says

The Best Part of Me: Children Talk About their Bodies in Pictures and Words
by Wendy Ewald

I read this story to a third grade class. The kids liked this a connection to the story in relating to themselves. Watching one student relate the story to another student because they missed it was interesting. The poems related to children's opinions of their own body, and which part they like about themselves. The poems are very specific, and helped inspire the kids to find their own quality that they could use in their own portraits.

Lauren Munch says

This book was fun, silly, and powerful all in one! I loved how each poem was written by a different child and they were able to choose what "the best part of me" was to them and why!

Poetry

2nd grade - 5th grade

The Styling Librarian says

The Best Part of Me – Children talk about their bodies in pictures and words by Wendy Ewald – What a beautiful poetry book... and reflective 3rd-5th graders sharing about the best part of themselves... Really appreciate how creative children were with their selections of a body part and writing a poem about them. They mentioned family member connections to their selection in addition to their heritage and also what they appreciate about the part of the body, for example the back. Here's a little portion of "My back" in the book: "I picked my back because if I didn't have my back then I couldn't move because everything counts on my back."

Teri says

This book inspired me to create a writing activity for my own students modeled after the book. The pictures and descriptions are simple, yet engaging. My students loved getting to write about their own "best part" and we got some really incredible photographs to go along with their stories.

kristen says

Looking forward to using this book as a mentor text for a special writing project for my students.

Michelle says

This book was requested by a teacher. I can see it will be the basis of a good writing lesson.

Lorie Barber says

Fun to read as an introduction to an end-of-year project for students.

Dana says

Just wonderful. Black and white photos of each child's favorite part of their body - hands, feet, elbow etc.. accompanied by their explanation of why that part of their body is their favorite part.

Jeffrey Hanson says

The Best Parts of me is on my favorites because of its unique style and its use of photography. I enjoyed this book because its creation seemed mostly dictated by the kids in it. The kids got to choose where their picture was taken and they composed the poems themselves. Poems written by children have a certain beauty to them that just makes me smile.

This book is significant to me because so much of our culture is about identifying what we hate about ourselves and wanting what other people have. This book shows that we should look at ourselves and see why we are great. This is an important lesson for children to understand so I recommend this for all grades. I could see this as a meaningful project at any age level. In the classroom I would use this to introduce or develop poem writing skills in students of all ages.

Linda says

I use this as a pre-cursor for my students opening writing activity. It is a powerful book that promotes self-love.

Jillian Heise says

I liked the concept of this book, but the writing was different than I expected.

Jane Baber says

This book is beyond cool. It's the coolest (book that blends photography, pride in body-image, and narrative poetry, that is). I was first introduced to "The Best Part of Me" during my summer with the Oklahoma Writing Project when a teacher colleague modeled how she used the book with her 5th graders. I immediately incorporated the text into my syllabus for the fall semester, eagerly anticipating collaborating on this creative composition with my pre-service teaching students.

Wendy Ewald's book is special, and the premise seems so simple. As per the cover, "children talk about their bodies in pictures and words." The pages follow a pattern: black and white photograph of a child's favorite feature (nose, teeth, eyes, etc.) followed by their poetic ode to their "best part." The book is not simple though; the message is incredibly strong. These self-portraits are powerful revelations about pride, individuality, culture, relationships, expression, and exercises in creative candidness.

Fast forward post-summer to reading the book with my class of educators, slowly pausing together to absorb the details in each students' special photograph, and laughing with the kids' sweet and clever narratives ("Sometimes I can move my teeth. Sometimes my gramma can move her teeth too."). My students and I each took our own photos and wrote odes to the best parts of us (cue laughter about making sure everything stayed G-rated), and shared them on a particularly special night in class. We laughed, smiled, and got teary as journeys with insecurities, pride in familial features, and quirky takes on our compositions were showcased. We talked teaching moments and how else this book could be used - What would characters in a novel say was the best part of them? What if we looked for non-physical attributes? What would our best personality traits be? What is the best gift we can share with others? What is the best thing I want to try? The possibilities for this text are huge!

The last line of the poem on the last page of "The Best Part of Me" reads: "These beautiful things are mine." This book reminds us to celebrate our students, celebrate each other, and celebrate ourselves. What is the best part of you?
