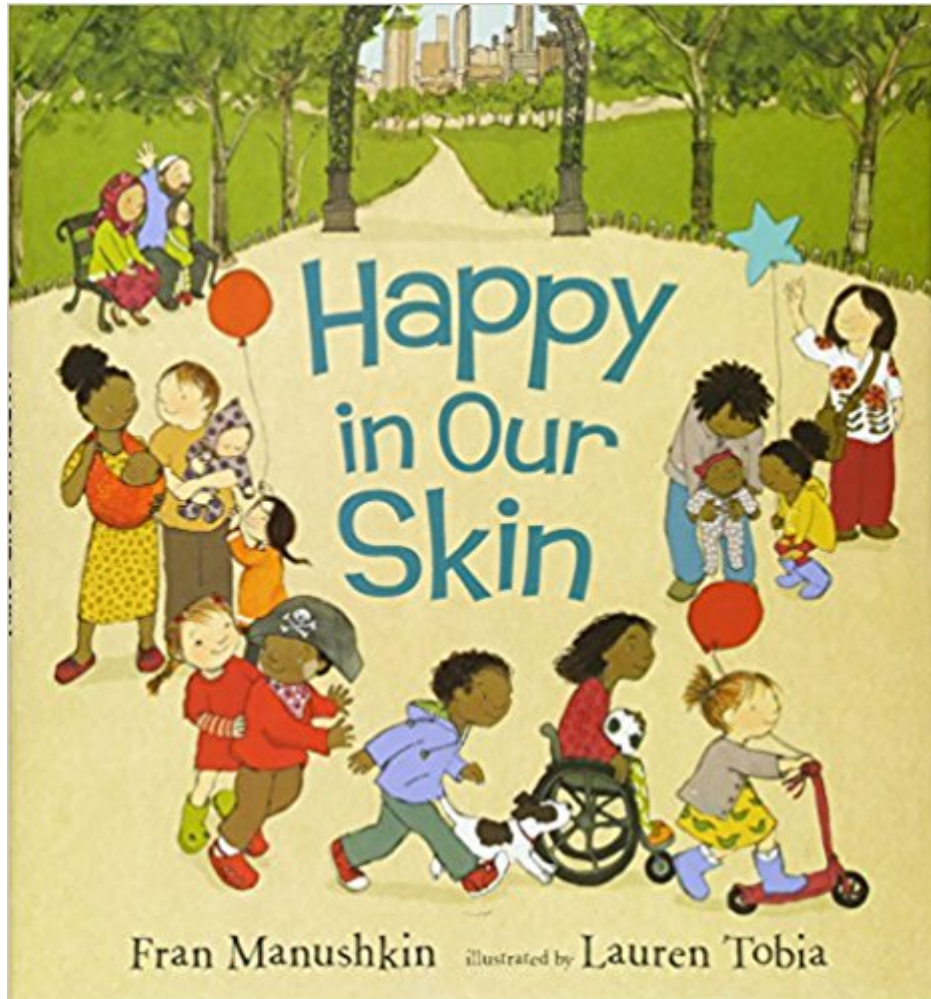




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# Happy In Our Skin



## Synopsis

Is there anything more splendid than a baby's skin? For families of all stripes comes a sweet celebration of what makes us unique and what holds us together. Look at you! You look so cute in your brand-new birthday suit. Just savor these bouquets of babies' cocoa-brown, cinnamon, peaches and cream. As they grow, their clever skin does too, enjoying hugs and tickles, protecting them inside and out, and making them one of a kind. Fran Manushkin's rollicking text and Lauren Tobia's delicious illustrations paint a breezy and irresistible picture of the human family and how wonderful it is to be just who you are.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 540 (What's this?)

Hardcover: 32 pages

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Shipping Weight: 1.6 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars 10 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #90,419 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #64 in Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > Science Studies > Biology #81 in Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > Science Studies > Anatomy & Physiology #115 in Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Where We Live > City Life

Age Range: 2 - 5 years

Grade Level: Preschool - Kindergarten

## Customer Reviews

PreSâ "In this picture book for young children, Manushkin celebrates the different aspects of skin. It has many tones, from "cocoa brown," to "peaches and cream," and sometimes distinguishing features like freckles, birthmarks, or dimples. Skin "keeps the outsides out/and your insides in," scabs over wounds, tans in sun, and exhibits goose pimples in cold. While the brief rhyming text is occasionally strained, the large illustrations, executed in ink and pencil and digitally arranged, depict a mixed-race family as they interact with a delightful array of diverse babies, preschoolers, and their parents in their urban neighborhood. Adults kiss baby feet, hold little ones aloft, and snuggle with

them. The park and neighborhood scenes include a girl in a wheelchair and Muslim and Orthodox Jewish families enjoying themselves outdoors. Among many humorous touches is a scene in which two youngsters display their paintings while readers see all the paint on the floor and walls and a dog streaking paint as it runs off with a brush. The story comes full circle, beginning with a baby, happy in its "brand-new" skin, and ending with parents and tired children, all "happy in [their] skin," coming home after celebrating with "bouquets of people" at a block party. VERDICT A delightful feel-good story that will be welcome in most collections.â "Marianne Saccardi, Children's Literature Consultant, Greenwich, CT

With plenty of sentimental books about belonging available, a fun angle on the ties that bind members of the human family is welcome...Following a light-skinned mother and her three children (who share their father's brown skin), Tobia (Baby's Got the Blues) creates an expansive, multicultural cast of urbanites enjoying themselves at a park, at the public pool, and at a boisterous block party. It's freewheeling funâ "a perfect book for the months when we all try to wear as little as possible.â "Publishers Weekly (starred review)The combination of lovingly humorous and detailed mixed-media illustrations and infectious rhymes will cause little ones and their families to pore over this book again and again.â "Kirkus ReviewsHappy in Our Skin paints a picture of an ideal world that recognizes the value of diversity and shuns color blindnessâ "a positive message for ears of every age and color.â "Booklist OnlineA delightful feel-good story.â "School Library Journal

Delightful. Age appropriate. High rating.

Love this book! It's a perfect way to celebrate our beautiful skin. I use it with my preschool students.

The title Happy in Our Skin by Fran Manushkin, illustrated by Lauren Tobia pretty much captures the message of this book. Richly diverse illustrations capture children and their families in various activities. Readers will notice that regardless of ethnicity, culture or physical ability, families interact and love the same. Children will also learn that skin has important function: "It keep the outsides out and the insides in." All people have this in common. Skin presents obvious differences as well: color, texture, freckles, dimples, even goose pimples.Happy in Our Skin can create an easy opportunity to have some important conversations about race. This can help parents lay the groundwork for tolerance, acceptance and for the end of racism.#AAQ Lens:Race matters. "Color blindness" is a misguided strategy for nurturing racial harmony and racial

identity. It is essential for transracial adoptive families to have consistent conversation on the topic. Parents must ensure that they are encouraging a reality-based discourse not one that is sanitized because it is easier to pretend race is less of an issue than it is. Adult adoptees who were adopted into transracial and/or trans-cultural families have raised their voices to proclaim the absolute necessity to tackle issues of race with courage and openness. *Happy in Our Skin* offers an easy conversation starter. Like many difficult adoption-connected conversations, it is best to begin discussions at a young age. --Gayle H. Swift, "ABC, Adoption & Me: A Multicultural Picture Book"

Purchased this for my daughter who is black, after she came home from pre-school telling us that her face was not perfect. We read it to her every night. She loves it. We purchased a second copy for her class, and it is read regularly by her pre-school teacher to the entire. Her class is mixed with 3 whites, 2 Hispanics, 2 African American / blacks and 4 Asians (1 from china and 3 from India). I was surprised that the school did not have a similar book. My daughter (as all children) is perfect!

Here we have a book about skin for toddlers and preschoolers. It touches on skin coming in different colors, it mentions freckles, dimples and birth marks. The diversity message is inclusive without being preachy. The illustrations show two young children, their baby sibling, and their same sex parents--one African American Mom and one Caucasian Mom. The reader learns that skin keeps your insides in and the outside out. We learn that skin grows with us, and when we fall down skin heals. There is just the right amount of information about skin for a three to five year old child. I'm a children's librarian, and we've added this book to our collection.

The message is of course a good one....we've all got skin and it comes in many colors, and nobody's is exactly the same as anyone else's. The illustrations are adorable, every one of them cute enough to frame and hang on the nursery wall. I'd have given this more stars except that some of the text seems to be a rather long stretch for a rhyme....as if the author couldn't think of a rhyme for the next line, so she just stuck in a generic placeholder (if you ever listen to traditional folk songs and ballads, and you hear a rhyme-line of "as you shall plainly see" or "as I will tell to you"...kind of like that.) Add to that the fact that there doesn't seem to be any rhyme scheme or meter at all, which makes it difficult to read aloud and maintain some sort of a rhythm which encourages kids to say the words with you. For example:Ginger-colored babies,peaches and cream too--splendid skin for me,splendid skin for you!It's terrific to have skin.It keeps the outsides outand your insides in.What a wonderful world,Such a hullabaloo--with all of us in it!See the splendid view:bouquets of

people, blooming and boisterous, brawny and thin, loving each day, happy in our skin!! I realize that Fran Manushkin is a much-lauded author with more than fifty children's books to her credit, but this is not her strongest work. I have to wonder--if an unknown author had submitted this to Candlewick Press, would it have been published?

As I was reading *Happy in Our Skin* to my granddaughter she kept pointing at all the different people in the book - "They look like us!" The text is a delight. It just rolls along with a rhyming bounce and gaiety. There are even science lessons here: "It's terrific to have skin. It keeps the outsides out and your insides in." The illustrations are colorful, cozy, and full of everyday fun, recognizable for every child - and, of course, the inclusiveness is key. It is fun all around.

A fun picture book about infants, their skin color and diversity, this is an excellent and positive way to underscore how we "grow into our birthday suit" and how there also are more similarities than differences within the human family. The illustrations here are really very eye appealing...the rhymed text (which is a bit forced at times) is OK but not great. Overall, though, this is a happy book that young children should find fun to have open at story time.

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