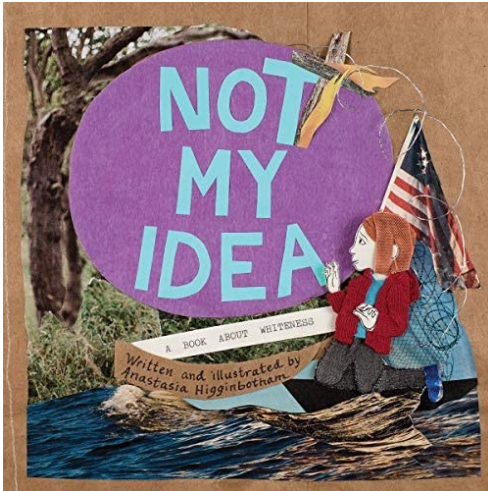


NOT MY IDEA: A BOOK ABOUT WHITENESS



Juvenile

By Anastasia Higginbotham

ISBN: 978-1-9483-4000-7

Book Summary:

This book teaches young children that white people are racist and therefore, must fight against "whiteness" for racial justice.

Summary of Concerns:

This book contains controversial and inflammatory racial and social commentary and violence.

2 /5

Teen Guidance
BookLooks Review Rating

| Page | Content |
|------|---|
| 3 | <p>In a 1993 interview, Toni Morrison said about racism in America: "White people have a very, very serious problem, and they should start thinking about what they can do about it." She added, "Take me out of it." Those words landed in me as a direct command.</p> <p>I made this book for my own white sons with help from their teachers and mine. It's dedicated to the Brooklyn Free School, where my family was first called upon to engage with whiteness in order to dismantle white supremacy.</p> |
| 4 | <p>The illustration on this page depicts a young white woman with her left hand covering her eyes but allowing her right eye to peek through her fingers. There is a photo on the wall behind her with an image of a hand holding a gun at an unknown object. The woman is saying, "Oh no, not again." <i>See Figure 1.</i></p> |
| 7 | <p>"Who is that with their hands up?" "Why is that policeman screaming at him?"</p> |
| 8 | <p>The illustration on the top of the page depicts a young white woman with her hands covering her ears. The text next to her reads: bang! bang! bang! bang! bang!</p> <p>The illustration on the bottom of the page depicts a white person's hand holding a remote control with the word "POWER" written over the top of it. The text next to this image reads: They want to bury the truth.</p> |
| 10 | <p>Deep down we all know. Color matters.</p> |
| 12 | <p>Skin color makes a difference in how the world sees you and in how you see the world.</p> |
| 14 | <p>and 15. The illustration on this page depicts a young white woman attempting to reach a vase on a store shelf priced \$15 while a young dark-skinned man is attempting to reach a vase on a store shelf with the prices \$8 and \$10. There is a security officer in the middle of the pages who is watching the dark-skinned male and has his back to the light-skinned woman.</p> <p>The text on the page reads: It makes a difference in how much trouble seems to find you or let you be.</p> |
| 16 | <p>In stores, in cars, on sidewalks, at school- your skin color affects the most ordinary daily experiences, including...</p> |
| 18 | <p>...which neighborhoods welcome you.</p> |
| 21 | <p>The illustration on this page depicts a white man sitting in a chair with a remote control in his hand as he is watching a TV. The words coming out of the TV read: "...Marchers came to demand justice for the unarmed African American. They demand an end to killings across the nation. Part of a shameful pattern that has claimed the lives particularly of young men of color. Marchers referenced past victims and a video taken by a bystander."</p> <p>The man is saying, "They're blockin' the road!"</p> |

| Page | Content |
|------|---|
| 22 | <p>BREAKING NEWS: FAMILY SPEAKS OUT ON POLICE SHOOTING You may get the message that racism is happening only to Black and brown people.</p> |
| 23 | <p>Racism is a white person's problem and we are all caught up in it-</p> |
| 24 | <p>-mostly by refusing to look at it</p> |
| 25 | <p>"Racial Justice. We must step up"</p> |
| 30 | <p>Racism was not your idea. You don't need to defend it.</p> |
| 33 | <p>In the United States of America, white people have committed outrageous crimes against Black people for four hundred years. All along, every step of the way, people who love justice and love each other have been fighting back.</p> |
| 34 | <p>Many white people did things they never should have done. Denied opportunity denied housing denied voting rights</p> |
| 35 | <p>Many other white people failed to see the problem with this. ...These choices put wealth and power into white hands, homes, and neighborhoods.</p> |
| 38 | <p>Racism is still happening. It keeps changing and keeps being the same.</p> |
| 50 | <p>Go with your instincts on this one. Racial justice is possible.</p> |
| 56 | <p>"Wanna know whose liberation you are fighting for? Your own."</p> |
| 57 | <p>White supremacy has been lying to kids for centuries. White supremacy is pretend. But the consequences are real.</p> <p>The illustration on the bottom-left of the page depicts an outline drawing on white paper of a hand holding a gun pointed toward the opposite side of the page on which a pair of raised hands are colored brown. The text above the illustration reads: The truth is much simpler. The text below the hand holding the gun reads: dangerous The text below the raised brown hands reads: not dangerous <i>See Figure 2.</i></p> |
| 58 | <p>WHITENESS IS A BAD DEAL.</p> |
| 59 | <p>Contract Binding You to WHITENESS you get: stolen land stolen riches special favors + WHITENESS gets: to mess endlessly with the lives of your friends, neighbors, and loved ones, and all fellow humans of COLOR. For the purpose of profit "\$" Your soul Sign below:</p> |

| Page | Content |
|------|--|
| | + Land, riches, and favors may be revoked at any time, for any reason. |
| 60 | You can be WHITE without signing onto whiteness. |
| 64 | Innocence is overrated. |

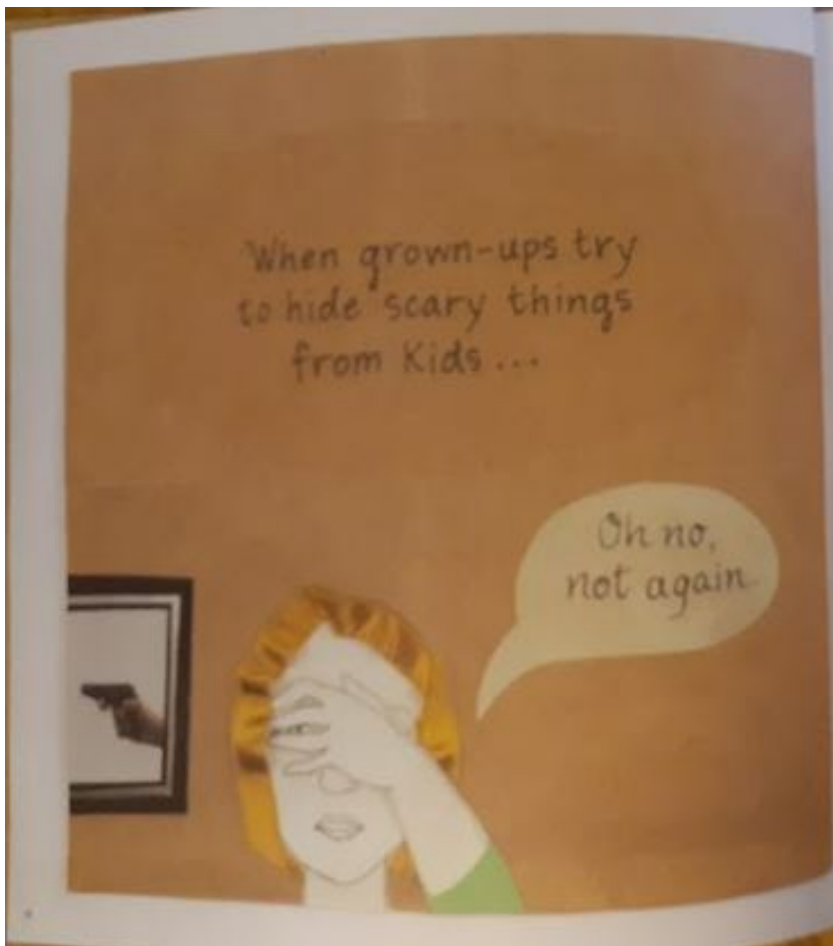


Figure 1

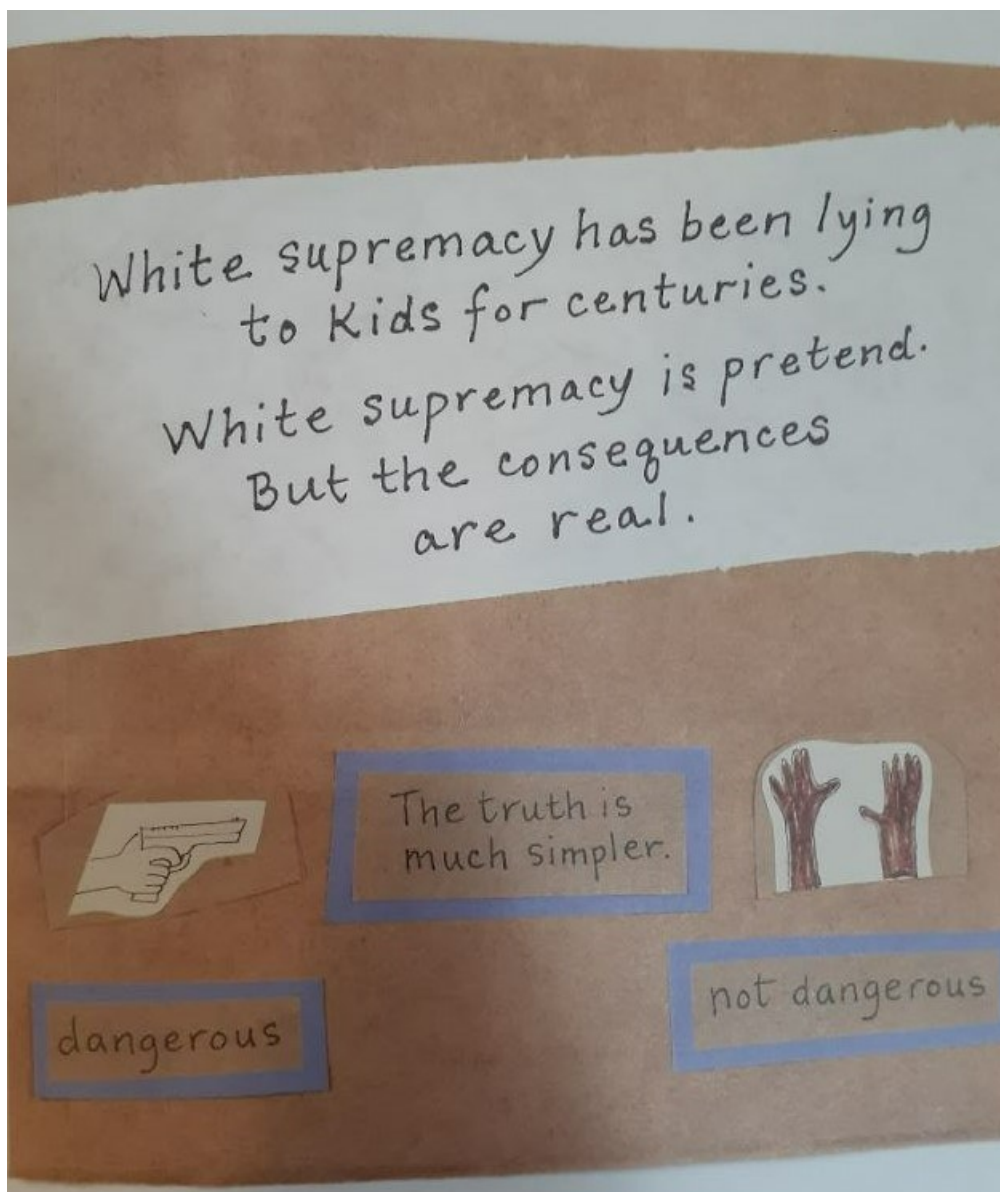


Figure 2