

# Be Who You Are



## Synopsis

In a brand-new companion to his beloved classic *It's Okay to Be Different*, New York Times bestselling author Todd Parr encourages kids to be proud of who they are inside. Be who you are! Be proud of where you're from. Be a different color. Speak your language. Wear everything you need to be you. Who better than Todd Parr to remind kids that their unique traits are what make them so special? With his signature silly and accessible style, Parr encourages readers to embrace all their unique qualities.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 270 (What's this?)

Hardcover: 32 pages

Publisher: Little, Brown Books for Young Readers (October 25, 2016)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0316265233

ISBN-13: 978-0316265232

Product Dimensions: 10.2 x 0.5 x 10.4 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.2 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars 23 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #7,943 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #6 in [Children's Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Difficult Discussions > Homelessness & Poverty](#) #14 in [Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Difficult Discussions > Prejudice & Racism](#) #20 in [Children's Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Fiction](#)

Age Range: 4 - 8 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 1

## Customer Reviews

K-Gr 2 **•**The title of this book says it all. The message, repeated in large, colorful letters across brightly colored backgrounds with lots of simple, cartoonish illustrations, is one for every child to hear. The sentence, "Be proud of where you're from" is illustrated with six different abodes: a thatched-roof hut, a trailer, a doghouse, a single home, an apartment house, and a Middle Eastern-style building. "Be your own family" is illustrated with a spaceship filled with individuals of different colors, genders, and species (there is a dog included), all with alien horns. A simple message is repeated with new examples on each spread. Parr's illustrations have a touch of Keith Haring and a smidge of "POW!" (as seen in pop art), which are very effective for getting

readers' attention. Combine this offering with Kerascoff's Paul and Antoinette as a starting point for a lively conversation about individuality, diversity, and acceptance. Extend the discussion to include more focus on individuals with disabilities by adding Kathy Hoopmann's *All Cats Have Asperger Syndrome*. VERDICT A first choice for all collections. There cannot be too many options that encourage this sentiment in children. — Mary Hazelton, formerly at Warren & Waldoboro Elementary Schools, ME

Publishers Weekly  
*Be Who You Are* By Todd Parr October 2016 | \$17.99 | Ages 3 - 6 ISBN 978-0-316-26523-2 | Ebook ISBN 978-0-316-26522-5  
"Be who you are," begins Parr, in an emphatic call to embrace one's individuality. "Be old. Be young. Be a different color." (Given that this is a Parr book, it goes without saying that those colors could be purple, pink, or green.) Working in his customary boldly outlined, vibrantly colored drawing style, Parr balances bold proclamations with playful humor. "Learn in your own way," he writes as a cat looks at a bowl of dog food, clearly intrigued; humans are encouraged to broaden their tastes, too, as Parr lines up a row of food trucks for a spread that reads "Try new things." Subtle visual moments should speak to the readers who need them (a boy wears a feather boa, a mouse stands up to a cat with a firm "no!"), but there's nothing quiet about Parr's overall point, which roars across several pages in capital letters: "Just be who you are!" Publishers Weekly  
*Be Who You Are* By Todd Parr October 2016 | \$17.99 | Ages 3 - 6 ISBN 978-0-316-26523-2 | Ebook ISBN 978-0-316-26522-5  
A call to celebrate unique characteristics and individuality. "Be who you are" is essentially the message behind every Parr book, subtle or not. His latest doesn't pull any punches; it splashes self-acceptance across every page. "Be old. Be young. / Be a different color." (Not that one ever has to remind Parr's readers of that!) "Be silly" is paired with the obligatory shot of underwear on one's head, while "Be brave" shows a tiny fish face to face with a shark (the shark just might be the bravest of all). A more-contemplative scene shows a cat peering curiously at a dog's food bowl, with the guidance: "Learn in your own way." (A few pages later two turquoise pigeons peer at a hot dog; a nifty literary nod.) A note to readers tells of Parr's fourth-grade penchant for clip-on ties and purple sunglasses. To children everywhere, as well as to the child within himself, Parr declares: "Wear everything you need to be you." Accompanying this invitation are six smiling figures, one a child with close-cropped hair, trousers, and a pink boa and another with an enormous Afro. Parr's trademark bright colors and wild fashion abound, but the one thing that unifies all? A single line, curved into a smile. A simple spin on Parr's *It's Okay to Be Different* (2001) but still worth shouting from

the rooftops. SLJ: The title of this book says it all. The message, repeated in large, colorful letters across brightly colored backgrounds with lots of simple, cartoonish illustrations, is one for every child to hear. The sentence, "Be proud of where you're from" is illustrated with six different abodes: a thatched-roof hut, a trailer, a doghouse, a single home, an apartment house, and a Middle Eastern-style building. "Be your own family" is illustrated with a spaceship filled with individuals of different colors, genders, and species (there is a dog included), all with alien horns. A simple message is repeated with new examples on each spread. Parr's illustrations have a touch of Keith Haring and a smidge of "POW!" (as seen in pop art), which are very effective for getting readers' attention. Combine this offering with Kerascof's Paul and Antoinette as a starting point for a lively conversation about individuality, diversity, and acceptance. Extend the discussion to include more focus on individuals with disabilities by adding Kathy Hoopmann's All Cats Have Asperger Syndrome. VERDICT A first choice for all collections. There cannot be too many options that encourage this sentiment in children. Kansas CITY Star: Dr. Seuss, Shel Silverstein... Well I've found another to add to the list: Todd Parr. Booklist Online: Be Who You Are By Todd Parr October 2016 | \$17.99 | Ages 3 - 6 ISBN: 978-0-316-26523-2 | Ebook ISBN: 978-0-316-26522-5 In this self-help book for very young audiences, readers are encouraged to develop and express individuality: "Dance! Play! Discover!" Parr's signature cartoonlike characters frolic across vibrant backgrounds, happily demonstrating suggested activities, and throwing in a few creative innovations along the way. The illustrations add whimsy and embrace diversity ("Be a different color," the text proclaims, showing characters with skin tones in green, yellow, blue, purple and orange; hairstyles defy description). Some exhortations are traditional ("Be the best that you can be"), while others are fresh and unexpected ("Be your own family"). The underlying message to "just be who you are!" is repeated every few pages, creating a lilting refrain that begs to be chanted en masse during story hour. The colorful cover will draw attention, and the content will ensure requests for repeated readings. As with previous offerings from Parr, this is destined to be a hit with the preschool crowd and with their parents, who may remember Free to Be. . . You and Me.

I read this to my kids. I want to teach them is that what matters is on inside not the outside and not to judge a book by its cover. The author's books convey this message really well. I think I bought almost all his books.

Our kids love this book! It speaks to inclusion, being a reprint of differences, and being who you are!

Fantastic and fun book. Great addition to treasured collection of k/1 books in our classroom!

I love the profound simplicity of Todd Parr books! My class always looks for Todd's picture in the back of the books. I look forward to adding to my Todd Parr collection!

Quick delivery and as described, would buy again! Cute illustrations with a positive but not cloying message.

Love Todd Parr, and love this book!! working on teaching my 4 and 5 year old to always be themselves, this book is great!

Another "Love, Todd" book for our collection. We love all of TP books and this one is no different!

great message

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