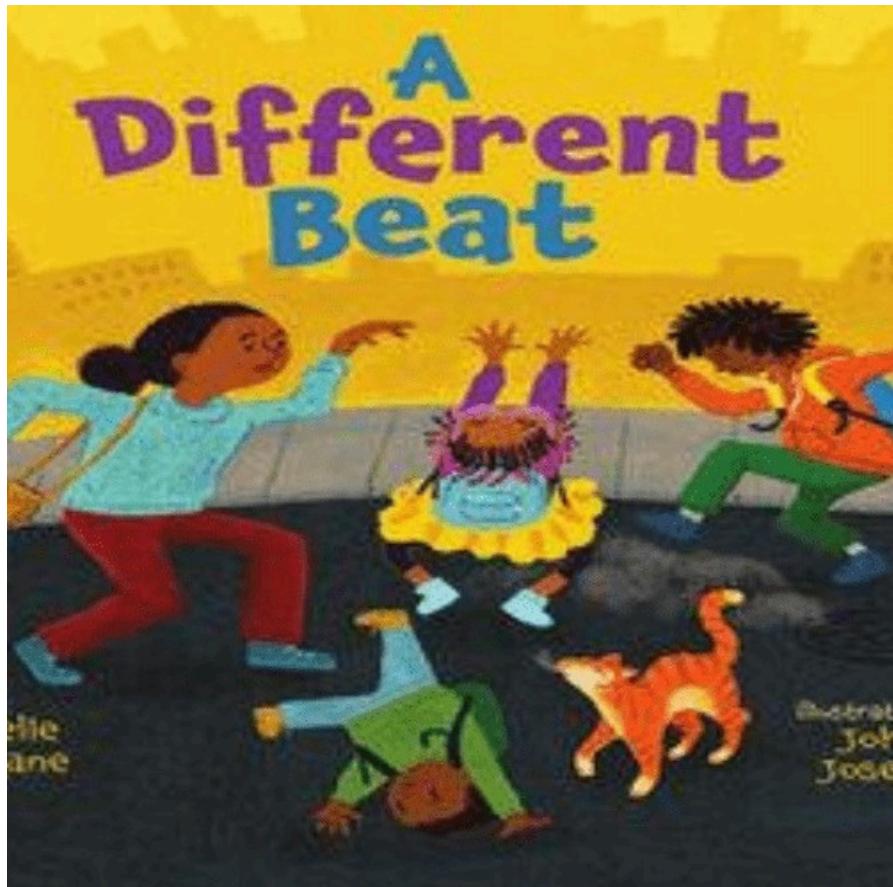


A Different Beat

A Guide for Teachers and Parents



Written by Shyrelle Kalilikane

Illustrated by John Joseph

THEMES

Inclusion

Health & Wellbeing

SUB-THEMES

Homelessness

Displacement

Empathy and kindness

Hope in adversity

Story Discussion Guide

Children will:

- Understand the impact of homelessness on children.
- Recognize global housing insecurity and its effect on education
- . Reflect on social exclusion and bullying due to poverty.
- Cultivate empathy and respect for all peers.
- Inspire strength and hope in children facing hardship

Lesson Plan

Introduce the topic of homelessness with care and sensitivity. Use the story as a window into the daily life of a child who is experiencing housing insecurity. Prompt students to think deeply about the role of empathy, kindness, and how hard it is to keep going when your life is turned upside down..

Learning Outcome

Before Reading:

- Have you ever thought about what it would be like not to have a home?
- Why do you think people might have to live in shelters?
- How do you think children feel when their lives suddenly change this way?

During Reading :

- How do the children in the story try to stay strong?
- What does the mother do to keep hope alive for her family?
- Do you notice how the children are treated by others around them?

After Reading :

- What are some reasons children might be left out or teased in school?
- How do you think it feels to be called names or treated unfairly just because you're poor?
- What can we do to be kinder and more supportive friends?

Activities:

- Empathy Role-Play
- Art for Hope
- Write a Journal Entry
- Global Reflection

Expected Outcomes

Students will come away with a better understanding of the often-hidden struggles of children who experience homelessness and poverty. They will develop a greater capacity for empathy, learn how to challenge bullying or exclusion, and be reminded that all children deserve kindness and dignity—no matter their circumstances.

Applicable SDGs

- SDG 1: No Poverty
- SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities
- SDG 16: Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions

SDG Explanation

- SDG 1: Highlights the impact of poverty and unemployment on families.
- SDG 10: Focuses on social exclusion and peer discrimination faced by homeless children.
- SDG 16: Promotes empathy, fairness, and inclusion for all children.

ABOUT ZAMASAMA

Zamasama is a nonprofit initiative that curates children's stories from diverse cultures and lived experiences around the world. It gives children a window into other communities—and a mirror that affirms their own, helping children recognize the shared humanity that connects us across differences.

Through narratives that gently challenge biases and broaden worldviews, Zamasama helps children see difference not as a barrier but as a bridge. Through the power of stories, we sow the seeds of pluralism that can grow into a more harmonious world for all.