



A Glass Full of Rumors

A.M. Marcus

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The book involves the important lessons surrounding the consequences of rumors and gossip. We meet our main characters, Michael and Mya, good friends from different backgrounds. Mya is a little girl wise beyond her years. Sadly, Michael experiences being the subject of a rumor at school, which hurts, while also dealing with his friend Mya moving away. Not knowing better Micheal too gets caught up in talking behind his schoolmates. On a special visit to see his friend, Michael learns from Mya some valuable lessons. The consequences of misinformation and how it is important to seek truth and speak from a positive place in our hearts.

A Glass Full of Rumors Details

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From Reader Review A Glass Full of Rumors for online ebook

Carolyn Mikelson says

There is nothing worse than feeling powerless at the hands of others.

Yet, in today's society, many children experience that every day. Bullying and cyber bullying incorporate rumors and other untruths to pound a victim night and day, and at every turn. There are so many victims, and so many bullies. Parents are heartbroken if their child is targeted, and shocked if their child is found to be the bully. Children experience bullying at younger ages as the years go by, and it is something that needs to be stopped.

This book is an excellent tool to help elementary school children understand what a rumor is, and how it can be hurtful. It also shows how victims of rumors can become bullies to fit in. A.M. Marcus' story leads us through a friendship between 8 year old children Mya and Michael. Mya is a strong female character who isn't shy about defending her best friend. But when she moves away, Michael must face the other children and their rumors by himself. Becoming the victim, Michael chooses to partake in spreading rumors to fit in, and to thereby stop being bullied. Luckily, a trip to see his old friend Mya sets him on the right path again.

Mya shares a three step process, inspired by Socrates, to determine if something that is heard is a rumor. Using a glass of water, she illustrates how words cannot be taken back once spoken. Through Mya, Michael finds his strength and is able to share what he has learned with others at his school.

I love that Marcus uses a girl as the strong, fearless character in this story. Not only is the book a testament for children to manage rumors in their day to day life, but it also presents a female as a positive role model who has the ability to stand up for not only herself, but for her friend.

Michael is a likable character who readers will be able to identify with. His journey is told in a gentle, conversational manner that is child-friendly, but not dumbed down. Micheal is not only the victim in the story, but becomes one of the aggressors, as so many do. Even so, Mya remains his friend. She informs and teaches him about ending the cycle of rumors by using clear thinking and refusing to give into peer pressure. This shows the readers what can actually happen in these situations, and helps them to guard against it.

My 9 and 10 year olds took a lot away from the story. My ten year old girl has often complained of rumors in the classroom, and she enjoyed hearing about the three steps to guard against spreading rumors. She identified with Mya, since she is the type to stick to her guns and do the right thing. My 9 year old son has been accused of doing things he has not done before (once by a teacher), and understands how Michael felt in the story. He is was impressed that Michael stood up for himself at the end of the story, showing me that the seed has been planted in his head to do the same when confronted with the same type of situation.

I consider this a Must Read for parents, teachers, social workers, and others who have contact with groups of children where rumors spread and bullying occur. Sharing books like these with our children will not only bring awareness to the harm that rumors bring, but to the prevention of them from happening.

Cheri Roan says

Awe-Inspiring Children's Story That Teaches A Powerful Lifelong Lesson

“Their friendship was not a simple one. Michael lived in the poor section of town in a run-down house, while Mya came from a wealthy family and a fancy home. Still, Mya’s parents enjoyed having Michael join them for dinner. Because Michael was so poor, the other children picked on him, called him names, and said mean things about him. Mya always stood up for Michael...”

Everyone needs friends that will be there for us. Eight-year-old Michael and Mya have an amazing friendship that is until Mya moves away. The two remain friends, but it’s not the same. Sadly, Michael gets caught up in hurting others with the same gossip and rumors that hurt him so badly. That is until he tries to pass those same hurtful stories on to Mya. Where she teaches him more than a valuable lesson...

Children will be captivated not only by the amazing story that teaches a powerful lesson but by the beautiful pictures too. Marcus’ story is not only a remarkable find for children, but adults will find a great reminder in Socrates’ teaching. Sunday school teachers will find this a useful tool in teaching the Biblical story of “do unto others”. Parents will be inspired by the ease of learning, as children will be taught the power of their words. Easy for children with special needs to read and understand and I find that a rare, outstanding find. Marcus is more than a storyteller; he has an amazing way of combining great stories and valuable teachings that will give children lifelong lessons that will never be forgotten.

“If what you want to say is neither true, nor good or kind, nor useful or necessary, please don’t say anything at all.” - Socrates

Sarah Barnes says

I read this book to my nephews who are 5 and 7. A Glass Of Rumors is a perfect way to teach children about right and wrong. Although it did not take very long to read to them, they were so interested in it that we had a really long discussions about it throughout. I personally felt that one of the best aspects of this book was that it is not completely dumbed down for the children. My nephews not only learnt a valuable life lesson but also learnt new words ("philosopher" for example). My youngest found the book a little more challenging but the combination of the story, the illustrations and some extra conversation really got the message across. When Michael was blamed for stealing the ticket both of them jumped up in uproar! Very cute and rewarding book to read to them. I've just ordered my free colouring in book that comes with it and will be doing this with my little ones to remind them of the lesson we learnt in the book. Simple, awesome and enriching, thanks!

Pamela Eastland says

When you are trying to help kids learn big life lessons, A.M. Marcus is one of the best at putting a tale together which they can relate to and remember. This story shows how young Michael and Mya cope with bullying and how it ultimately is harmful. But, what I like the most about this story, is that the kids deal with the bullying without it harming their friendship. This story goes beyond bullying and shows what a strong friendship can look like, even with one friend moving out of town. It also introduces kids to Socrates - which is always a good idea! Once again, Marcus has shown that you don't have to talk down to kids just because they are young - give them big ideas in a way they can relate to and they are much more likely to make the

ideas their own.

Lauren says

This book is a great example of what we should be teaching our children!

The book is about bullying and spreading rumours, it deals with the issue head on and in a great way for children and adults to understand. Reading this you can see how the subject relates to real life and how it is an everyday occurrence.

I love that the author, A. M. Marcus, has used the philosopher Socrates to explain how to dismiss rumours. I think any child could easily pick up the method and use it if the situation arises. I also think this book is great because it teaches something new and it isn't 'dumbed down' for the child and it is definitely thought provoking!

This book will definitely start a discussion between you and your child, which will lead to a deeper understanding of the message in the book.

Such a lovely read and isn't just for children, I think this book could teach a fair few adults as well!

Claire - The Coffeeholic Bookworm says

Michael and Mya were bestfriends, they're always together, they had fun together. Even if their social status were quite opposite, Michael's family is poor while Mya was rich, they stayed friends. They didn't give a care for other people who talked about them behind their backs.

When the school tickets had gone missing, everyone was quick to point their fingers on Michael and started rumors about him.

When Mya's family had to move to another place, Michael was saddened and had no friends. That's when he started to act unlikely and became one of the bullies.

When Mya learned about her friend, she instilled in him the wisdom of Socrates.

Have you checked if the rumor is true?

Does the rumor make the person concerned look bad?

Will the rumor be useful to me?

A Glass Full of Rumors is a very interesting and informative book, which aims to teach children how not to fall victims to bullies and not to spread rumors that would hurt other's feelings. A.M. Marcus was able to evoke powerful emotions that children need to learn, understand, and emulate so they won't end up being bullies.

My kids were with me when I read this book and had enlightened them. My first child actually opened up to me and admitted he had once been the receiving end of rumors at school and he was so close to hurting them, but he retracted. He knew I wouldn't be happy if he hurt other people. Now that he learned about wisdom of

Socrates, he feels good about himself.

Truly, it is sometimes with kiddie books like this that we get to learn more about life and how to treat others right. I'm glad I was able to read this and share Mya and Michael's story to my kids. We all learned a lot from them.

Jen Case says

This is a really good book to help explain to a child how harmful spreading rumors can be to other people. I love that the author has high expectations of kids and knows that they can understand the concepts that were spoken of by Socrates. He makes a famous quote by an ancient philosopher practical and applicable by turning it into a sequence of three easy questions: 1.) Is this story true? 2.) Is it positive? 3.) Is it helpful to the listener? This book led to some good conversations with my 6-year-old about what rumors are and the importance of, not only refraining from telling them, but refusing to listen to them as well. I like that the character, Michael, learns how to firmly say that he doesn't want to listen to a rumor but says it with a smile, without judgement. I have to admit that learning these three questions has been an important reminder for me as well since it is equally damaging for adults to spread and listen to rumors. Social media is one of the most problematic venues for this kind of harmful speech.

My critiques of the book are few and pretty inconsequential to the overall message of the book. The first is that the other main character, Mya, is the one who teaches Michael about Socrates. It wasn't very authentic to have a child know so much about an ancient philosopher, and some of the vocabulary she used was beyond her development for a 10-year-old. I think it should have been the teacher at the beginning of the story that could have been the one to use the rumors about the lost amusement park ticket as a lesson in her classroom. I think she could have also used the illustration about the glass of water that could not be recovered after being poured out. My second critique is related to the "glass full of rumors" illustration. I think more could have been written to develop this idea that once your words are out of your mouth, you cannot get them back, and that the harm is still done even if you try to tell the truth and apologize. Lastly, I'm not a huge fan of the front cover. I may be viewing it through my American eyes, but when I see an old, ethereal man in the clouds, looking down on some children, I immediately think that it is a representation of God. This does not accurately represent the message of the book.

Overall, I think this is a very important book for children and adults alike. In a world where sensationalism and shock value is rewarded in the media and social media, we need to emphasize to our children the importance of kindness and the power of our words. This book does this in a way that calls children to look out for one another and empowers them to be forces for peace. I know that we will go back to this book as my children grow older, and this message becomes even more important for them as they navigate elementary school.

Jacqueline Liu says

Marcus presents young readers with another educational children's book, this time on the dangers of gossiping and spreading rumors. As bullying and gossiping can become huge issues as kids grow older, it's best to teach them about it while they're still young, and what better way than through a book?

In this short story, Michael--and readers--learns about the hurtful nature of gossiping. However, with Socrates' Triple Filter Test, people of all ages can also see how to stop gossiping, as the more rumors spread, the more it gets out of hand. By using this test, we can promote a more positive, more nurturing environment to stop verbal bullying.

This is great for young readers, both to educate them and give them a chance to test their reading skills. The book also facilitates discussion about bullying and hurting others, and we can also see if our children have been exposed to gossiping and rumors, even if unintentional. Overall, I found this book to be a wonderful educational and reading tool, and very useful for the kids I work with!

Shauna says

Bullying is so prevalent during the childhood years that it's always a great idea to sit down with children and explain to them what bullying is and how it's harmful. This is a great book for doing just that: helping children recognize the harm in verbal bullying such as gossiping, lying, and mean words.

In this story, the main character is first a victim of lies and gossip--which helps children see why it's bad--and then later, when his friend leaves, he succumbs to the world of gossip himself and needs his friend again to help him realize what he's doing. I like that this story emphasizes how to know when either you or someone else is gossiping, because it can be easy to get caught up in and not realize you're hurting others.

When the story starts, the kids are eight years old, and it ends when they're ten. The time jump might be a little harder for really young kids to follow, but it's needed to show how the main character goes from victim to bully without realizing it. I think the story's just right for kids around the ages of the main characters. This is a book I'd like to own on paperback someday when my little ones are getting into reading.

Rachel Horon says

A solid, age-appropriate lesson on the impact of rumors

A Glass Full of Rumors takes a lesson about spreading rumors to young people who may or may not understand what they are doing when they talk about others. I would not usually imagine teaching lessons from Socrates to my 8-year old, but this story made it clear and relatable for her age group. This gave us a good starting point to talk about this topic. She was able to understand when rumors are told about her, yet had to think for a moment about the things she may tell others that puts them in a bad light. The example about the impact of rumors was the most profound for her and will remain with her for a long time. We enjoyed this book and I wouldn't mind reading more lessons like this with her.

Marissa says

Sure, there are ups and downs in this book. It is definitely for an older child audience. I think this title works best if you read it WITH your child. Sit down, go over what is happening, ask them questions, and help them understand. Four stars simply because some of the concepts are harder to understand for children and the story line kind of jumps. However, once we were able to explain some of these concepts to my eight year-old

step-son, he was much better off. He asked good questions and learned A LOT!

Buy this enlightening title if you are ready to help your child through their gossip-filled youth. It helps begin to teach them analytical skills that are crucial all the way through school as they combat not just gossip, but bullying, growing up, and everything else in-between.

Robin says

Introducing children of a certain age to a complex concept can be incredibly difficult, as can educating them in social norms and acceptable behaviour. A. M. Marcus manages to do both in this short book, with an introduction to Socrates (and Ancient Greek logic) coupled with his morality lesson on the childish nature of the rumour mill.

Often the most common way of educating children, as many parents testify, is to ask the classic question of “how would you feel in their position”? This is exactly what Marcus undertakes, maintaining a simple and easily understood moral lesson wrapped in a social situation that any child of school age can empathise with.

Further to that, the author succeeds in adding in more complex ideas, surrounding the focus on Greek logic, which encourages children reading, or being read to, to ask questions about that subject and should help to increase their curiosity in areas beyond the reach of common education at the ages of 4-7 (I myself hadn’t heard of Socrates until I was about 12!).

Finally, Marcus adds in a last section encouraging feedback and questions, allowing both reader and parent to have an acknowledged reaction to the story. I feel that this is an excellent idea, as children can be asked how they were made to feel by the book and engage with their parents, and others, on the issues it contains. This ensures the lesson doesn’t flow like water down a ducks back and stimulates discussion and action, which are the best educators by far.

Marcus has done a good job at presenting a set of ambitious ideas and simple lessons together in a colourful and accessible manner that is different yet familiar, creating a very enjoyable book that anyone would be happy to have on a child’s shelf.

Nichole Streeter says

This book has a good lesson within its pages for young children. If you are looking to not only help teach your children how to read, but to give them something worth reading, A Glass Full of Rumors will do both of these things.

I was particularly impressed by the way that the book was written. The wording was done in such a way as to clearly explain to children what a rumor is, and secondly, why we should not be spreading rumors. The insertion of the references to Socrates and the Glass Full of Rumors analogy worked perfectly. This is the kind of book you will want to go back to with your kids again and again.

Megan says

A.M. Marcus has delivered another great children's book. This time he's teaching a super valuable lesson for today's highly connected world - spreading rumors. This book takes you on a journey of two eight-year-olds that are best friends in a small town. They come from very different backgrounds, leading the boy to constantly have rumors spread about him and the girl standing up for him. When she moves away, he loses his support and gives into the rumors he hears. He even starts to spread the rumors himself with his so-called new friends. When he visits his old best friend, she has some words of wisdom well beyond her years that anyone (adults included) should know.

I've come to know the author A.M. Marcus to have great metaphors and visuals for the lessons he teaches children through his books. "A Glass Full of Rumors" is no different. He gives a simple visual lesson that will stick with anyone, and a wonderful philosophical lesson from a great philosopher that should be in the back of everyone's minds.

I highly recommend this book to anyone with children. It's never too early to teach kids about rumors, what damage they can do, and how to stop them.

Stephanie Barber says

This book could not have come into my life at a better time. My daughter is in the 5th grade and there seems to be a lot of drama among the girls in her class some days. I have heard said in the past that as parents, we should listen to all the little things as they are big things to our children; that way when they are ready to tell us the really big things they will know we are there to listen. So, though I listen to the little things my daughter tells me I would like to discuss with her how much she really needs to discuss and how much she could work through on her own. I think reading this book with her will really help her to see what is important and worth sharing and what is not.
