



Emmanuel's Dream: The True Story of Emmanuel Ofosu Yeboah

By Laurie Ann Thompson, (2015)
 GRADES for USE: Grades 2-5
 AWARD: Schneider Family Book Award

SUMMARY OF BOOK: In Ghana, West Africa, a baby boy is born, with only one working leg. Most people assumed Emmanuel would be useless, or even a curse. However, with his mother's encouragement and guidance, Emmanuel learned to do everything a typical little boy does: walk, climb trees, do chores, go to school, and even ride a bike! When he was 13, Emmanuel moved away in search of work to support his family. No one would hire him, telling him to go beg, like others with disabilities did. Emmanuel persevered, working until his mother died. He decided to honor her, and her faith and belief in him, by showing the world that being disabled does not mean *unable*. On a 400-mile bike journey around Ghana, Emmanuel taught that any obstacle can be overcome, no matter the challenges.

Grade 2 Discussion Questions

RL.2.1: Ask and answer such questions as *who, what, where, when, why, and how* to demonstrate understanding of key details in a text.

Prior to reading, using the picture on the cover of the book: What do you think the story is going to be about? What do you notice about the character shown? Where do you think the story is going to take place? What do you think this blue medal means on the front cover?

After reading aloud: Why did Emmanuel's father leave at the beginning of the story? What activities did Mama Comfort encourage Emmanuel to do, even though they'd be difficult for him? How did the people in Ghana view people with disabilities? Give examples from the story where Emmanuel proved them wrong. Why did Emmanuel decide to bike around Ghana? What message was he trying to spread? What is the main idea of this story? Use details from the story to support your answer.

RL.2.3: Describe how characters in a story respond to major events and challenges.

How did each of the characters of the story respond to Emmanuel's disability (Emmanuel, mother, father, townspeople)? How did their reactions and beliefs about people with disabilities change from the beginning of the story to the end? (Create a class T-Chart during the discussion). Explain how being **disabled** is different than being **unable**? Based on Emmanuel's actions in the story, what do we know about his personality (internal character traits)? What happened in the story that demonstrates these traits? (Create a character trait anchor chart with the student's ideas).

Grade 2 Activities

W.2.8: Recall information from experiences or gather information from provided sources to answer a question.

Students will write about a time that they overcame a challenge and did something that was difficult for them. Compare and contrast their story with Emmanuel's story.

SL.2.2: Recount or describe key ideas or details from a text read aloud or information presented orally or through other media.

Watch the Youtube video Emmanuel's Ride- An Inspiring True Story (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BHUDh82sZYs>)

Students will work in partners to complete a concept map with information they learned about Emmanuel from the book and video. Partners will orally present to the class one new piece of information they learned. A class concept map will be completed with the information.