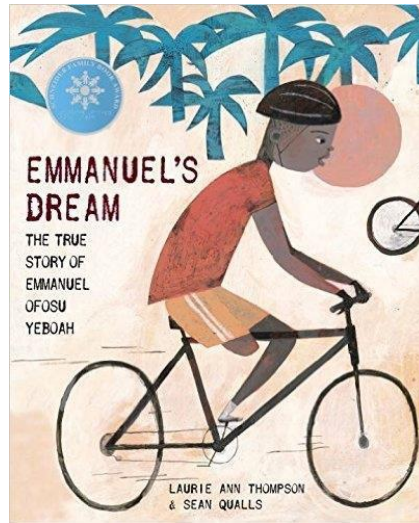


Emmanuel's Dream: The True Story of Emmanuel Ofosu Yeboah

By: Laurie Ann Thompson & Sean Qualls



Book Summary:

This is a true story picture book of a young man named Emmanuel Ofosu Yeboah. He was born in Ghana, West Africa with one deformed leg. Through out his life, people often misjudged or dismissed Emmanuel due to his disability. Emmanuel would hop on one leg everywhere and still play active games, like soccer. One day, Emmanuel decided to share his powerful message with the world through bicycling. He proved to not only his village but also the entire world that “disability is not inability.” Today, he continues to work hard and reach for his dreams.

Learning Invitations:

Powerful Messages
Riding for a cause
Emmanuel and You

Social Studies Themes:

Culture
Individual development and identity
Global connections

English Language Arts Standards:

Compare and Contrast (R.L. 5.3)
Theme (R.L. 5.2)
Draw evidence from literary text to support reflection (W.5.9)

Powerful Messages

NAME: _____

*Think about Emmanuel's powerful message: **Disability does not mean inability.**

<p>Write Emmanuel's message in your own words.</p> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	<p>Illustrate Emmanuel's message.</p>
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*What is a powerful message YOU would like to spread to the world?

Write YOUR powerful message.

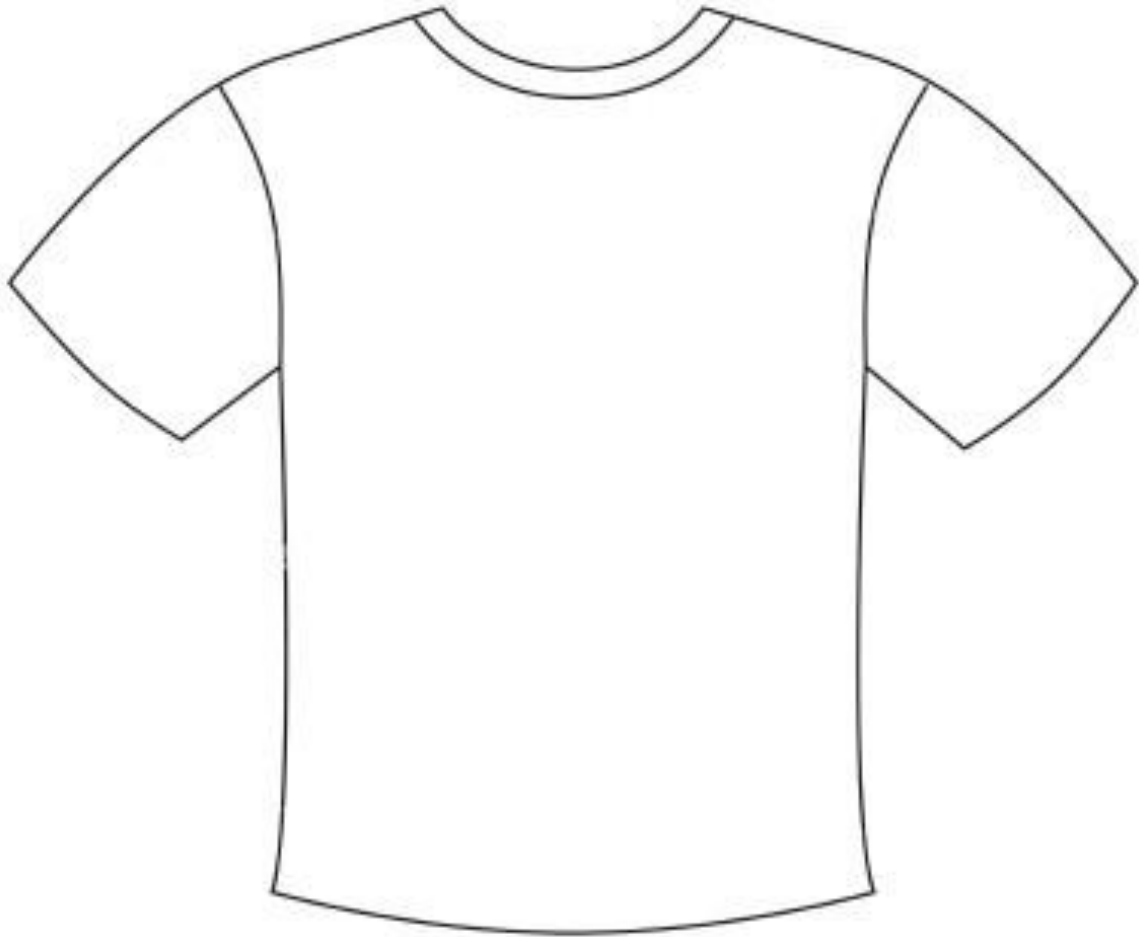
Illustrate YOUR powerful message.



Riding for a Cause

NAME: _____

Emmanuel's shirt read "*The Pozo*" to represent something that was very important to him. On the shirt below, create a design that you would wear if you were traveling across the country on a bicycle. Choose something that is important to you. On the lines below, explain why you chose your design/phrase.






Emmanuel and You

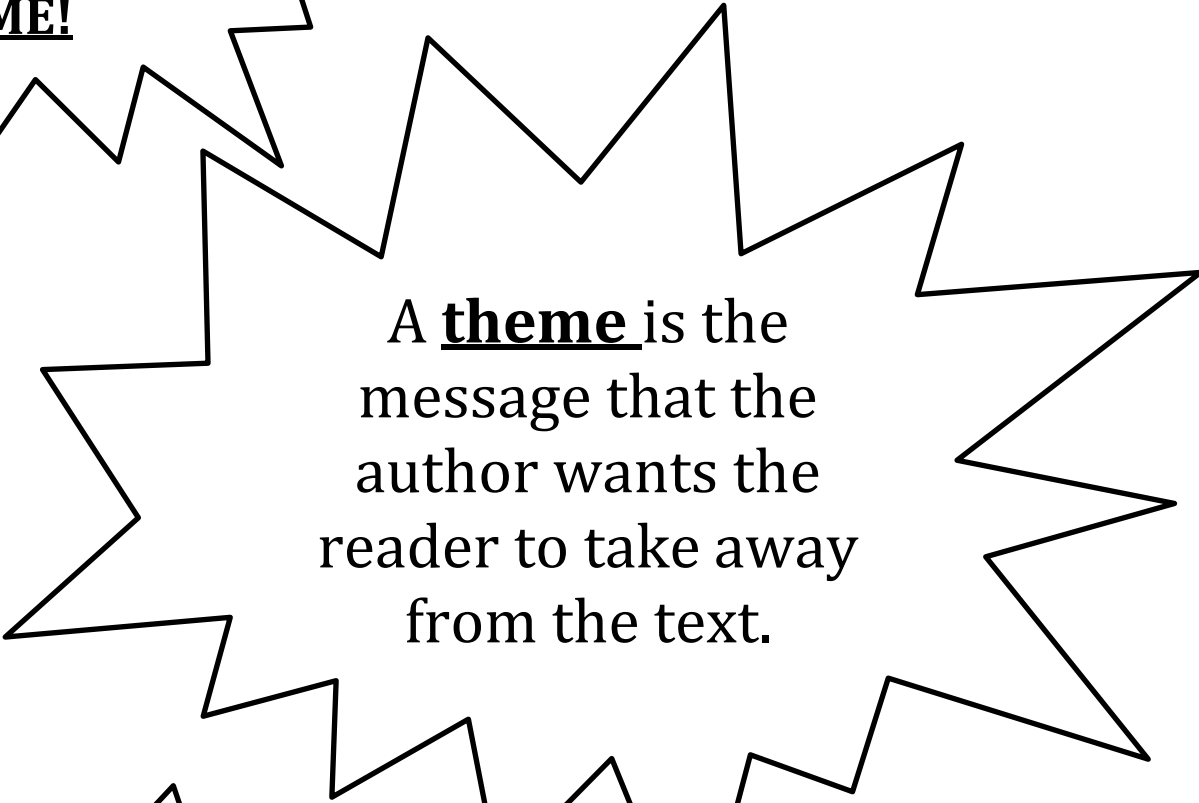
NAME: _____

Directions: Listed below are some “big ideas” found in Emmanuel’s Dream. In the Emmanuel column, write down ways that he demonstrated these “big ideas” in the story. Then, think of a way that YOU have demonstrated these “big ideas” in your own life and write them under the Me column.

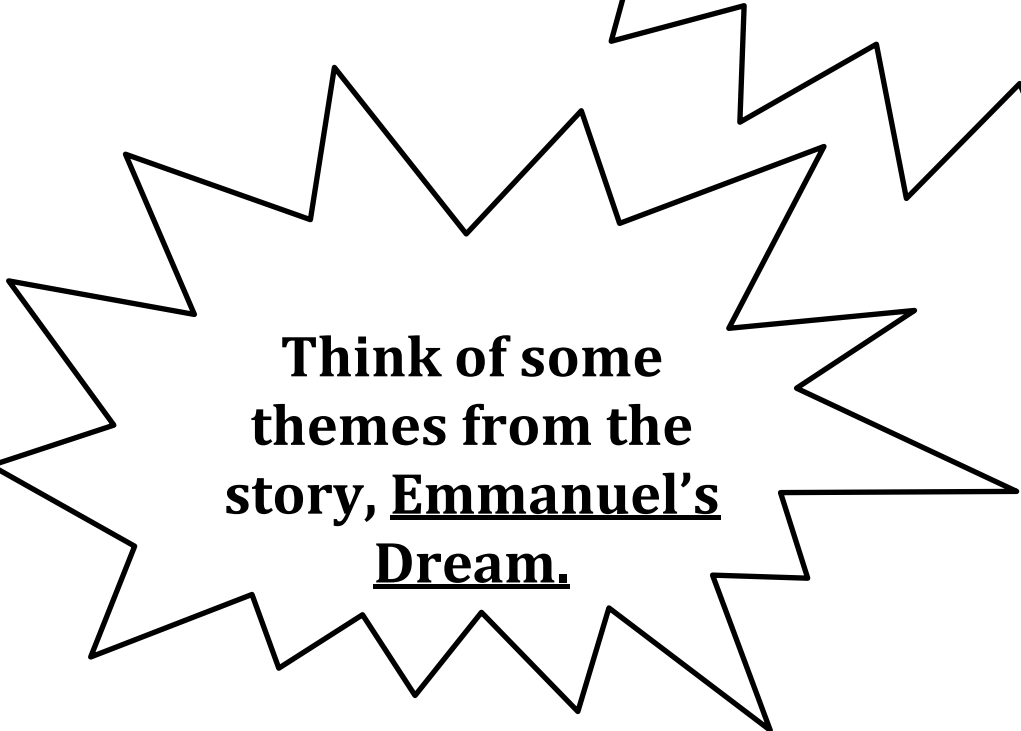
Big Idea	Emmanuel	Me
Don't give up.		
Believe in yourself.		
Accept help when needed.		
Be brave.		
Be respectful.		
Dream big.		



A powerful
message is
similar to a
THEME!



A **theme** is the
message that the
author wants the
reader to take away
from the text.



Think of some
themes from the
story, **Emmanuel's
Dream.**

Invitation sources for:
Powerful Messages

Emmanuel was born in Ghana, West Africa. When he was born, he had a deformity in one of his legs. This deformity prevented him from being accepted by many people in his village. Most people did not like that he was different and treated him poorly. He often had to hop places, such as to and from school. Emmanuel faced many struggles due to his deformity. However, he did not let this stop him from achieving greatness. He worked hard and began riding his bicycle everyday. He now bicycles cross-country to show that he is no different than anyone else. He decided that he was going to send a powerful message to his village that “disability does not mean inability.”

In the folder, you will find a sheet that explores Emmanuel’s powerful message, or theme, that “disability does not mean inability.” Work on your own to elaborate on Emmanuel’s message and then create your own powerful message that you think is important for others to understand.



Invitation Sources for:
Powerful Messages



Invitation Sources for:
Powerful Messages

Read the excerpt below:

“In 2001 Yeboah began his journey. He was 24. Over several months he rode 380 miles through Ghana, wearing a bright red shirt that read “The Pozo,” Ghanaian slang for a disabled person. Along the way he stopped to meet villagers, speak with disabled children, and give speeches to dignitaries, church leaders, and the ever-present media. He was not afraid to speak out against the government's policy on the disabled, and politely, consistently requested that the disabled be given the same respect as the able-bodied. As a result, Emmanuel became a one-named celebrity in Ghana.”

-Biography.org

In the folder, you will find a sheet with an empty t-shirt outline on it. You will create a t-shirt with a message that raises awareness about something very important to you. Be sure to write a description about why you chose your phrase/design.

Invitation Sources for:

Riding for a cause



Invitation Sources
for:

Read this quick biography of Emmanuel from MyHeroProject.com:

Emmanuel Ofose Yeboah was born in 1977 in Ghana, Africa with a missing tibia, or shinbone, in his right leg. As a result, his foot hung uselessly from his curled-up lower leg, making him unable to walk with two feet. In Africa, people believed that when one is a deformed child, his or her mother has sinned. Also, in Africa, the disabled were expected to live the life of a street beggar. As a result, Emmanuel's father deserted him and his family. Most people expected Emmanuel to live the life of a beggar, but he had other plans and insisted that he receive an education. At school, because of his disability, Emmanuel was belittled and excluded by his fellow classmates. They refused to let him join in on their games of soccer.

Emmanuel dropped out of school at the age of 13 when he had to work and make money to provide for his mother, who was severely ill. Though the streets of Ghana were full of beggars, he insisted on repairing shoes instead, earning an average of \$1 per day. Later on, he set out on his goal: to ride a bicycle around Ghana with only his one leg to raise the awareness of disabled people in Ghana. A non-profit organization called the Challenged Athletes Foundation sponsored him with a bike and he set off on his goal. When he heard that his mother had died, he moved to Kenya where he earned \$2 a day to send to his family. Afterwards, he continued to work towards his goal, and the CAF asked him to come to San Diego for its annual 56-mile bike ride. While he was there, he was fitted with a prosthetic leg.

When Emmanuel returned to Africa, he was a national hero. He always said, "In this world, we are not perfect. We can only do our best. I just want to make life better, and help people benefit from my experience." Inspired by these words, Emmanuel made over 100 wheelchairs for the disabled in Ghana and presented them in a huge celebration. A few years later, he was rewarded with the Arthur Ashe Courage Award at the annual ESPY Awards. In 2003, he was named the Most Inspirational Athlete by the CAF presented by Robin Williams. Also during that year, he married a woman named Elizabeth, and the couple had a daughter named Linda.

Truly, Emmanuel is a hardworking and inspirational man whose example should be followed by everyone. He went out and beyond to try to make his country a better place for the disabled. He stood up for what he believed in and didn't let obstacles get in the way of his goals.

Invitation Source for:

Emmanuel gave us many great examples to follow. In the folder you will find a sheet that lists many “big ideas” we can learn from Emmanuel. Your task is to think of ways that Emmanuel demonstrated these “big ideas” in his life and then think of ways that you have demonstrated these “big ideas” in your own life.



Invitation Source for:
Emmanuel and Me