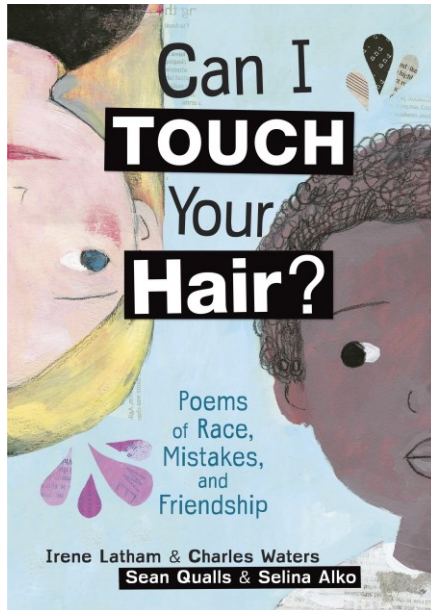


# CAN I TOUCH YOUR HAIR



*Easy Reader*

**By Irene Latham and Charles Waters**

ISBN: 9781512408881

## **Book Summary:**

Discussions of racial biases and assumptions made by and toward two young children by their classmates and how they overcome them.

## **Summary of Concerns:**

This book contains controversial racial commentary.

## **Mitigating Factors:**

Positive narrative regarding overcoming harmful stereotypes of race and gender.

**1**  
/5

**Child Guidance**  
BookLooks Review Rating

| Page | Content   |
|------|---|
| 6    | Write about anything! It's not black and white.<br>But it is.<br>Charles is black, and I'm white.   |
| 7    | Plus she's white.   |
| 13   | If it says that Jesus had hair like wool, eyes that were a flame of fire, and feet like brass as if they burned in a furnace, then why is everyone praising the straight-haired, blue-eyed white man I see looking down over all of us?   |
| 18   | ...the spot by the fence where the black girls play...<br>...I smile when Shonda comes over, but she doesn't smile back. You've got the whole rest of the playground, she says, Can't we at least have this corner?   |
| 20   | He goes by the name Ghost, at least that's what his new friends, all the same color, call him.<br>..."Hey, Ghost, my name's Charles." His pasty skin heats up faster than a summer's day.<br>...I realize I'm a few shades too dark to be allowed to call him by his nickname.    |
| 21   | Why do we call this region the black belt?<br>...Because black people live there.<br>...I learn when it comes to black and white, sometimes it's best to press my lips closed and not say anything at all.  |
| 25   | When Shonda presents her family tree to the class, I see all the top branches are draped in chains.<br>Because my ancestors were slaves, she says.<br>...I want to say I'm sorry, but those words are too small for something so big.   |
| 26   | ...I can't believe when I see people who could pass as my family being choked, pummeled, shot, killed by police officers.<br>Yet, when the police officers on TV are pale as a cloud, just like Officer Brassard, it makes my heart twist without any hope of being disentangled. |
| 27   | Only then does he tell me about Trayvon, about Ferguson, Missouri.  |
| 32   | "Did he just drop the N-bomb?" she asks. "Yes," I say. "But it had an A at the end of it, not an E-R, so it's okay."  |