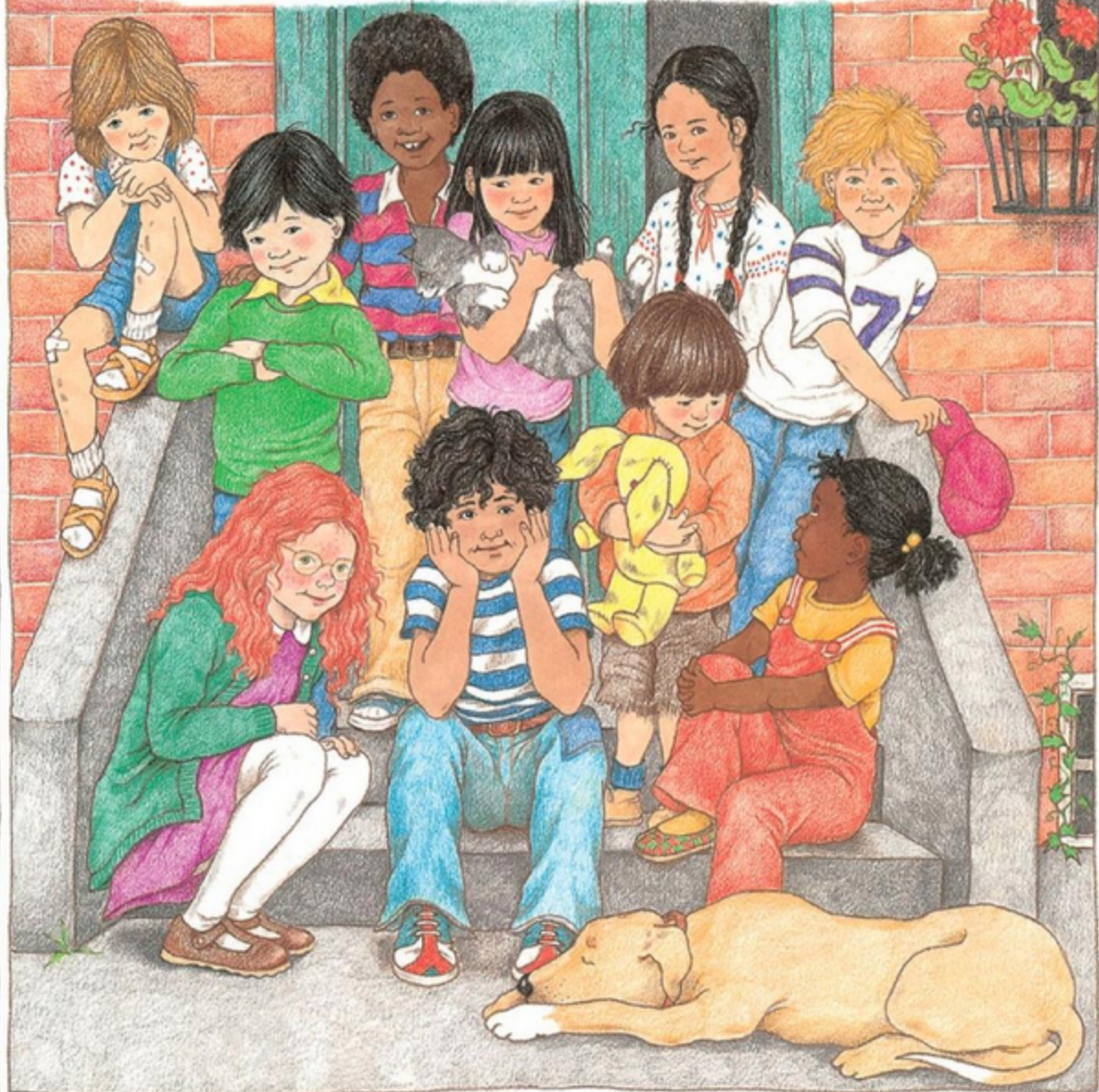


Why Am I Different?

NORMA SIMON

Pictures: Dora Leder



*For my friends in the Wellfleet Elementary School and
Becky and Emily Bleifield too. Thank you for all your help.*

—NS

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Simon, Norma.

Why am I different?

(Concept books)

Summary: Portrays everyday situations in which children see themselves as "different" in family life, preferences, and aptitudes, and yet, feel that being different is all right.

1. Individuality—Juvenile literature.

[1. Individuality] I. Leder, Dora. II. Title.

BF697.S548 155.2 76-41172

Text copyright © 1976 by Norma Simon

Illustrations copyright © 1976 by Dora Leder

Hardcover edition first published in the United States of America

in 1976 by Albert Whitman & Company

Paperback edition first published in the United States of America

in 1993 by Albert Whitman & Company

ISBN 978-0-8075-9076-8

All rights reserved. No part of this book may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying, recording, or by any information storage and retrieval system, without permission in writing from the publisher.

Printed in China

39 38 37 36 35 NP 22 21 20 19 18

For more information about Albert Whitman & Company,
visit our website at www.albertwhitman.com.

A Note About Growing

The gradual development of a realistic self-image is a critical area of child growth. It is knowing who you are and how you feel about the very special person you happen to be.

In gaining this identity of self, comparison plays a part. Children measure themselves against others, comparing height, hair color, place in the family, preferences, and abilities—to name a few familiar yardsticks. Being like someone else may become extremely desirable. Good friends want to look alike, dress alike, share fun and experiences.

Comparison, recognition, and analysis lead girls and boys to be aware of differences which involve themselves and others. The child weighs perceived positive and negative values and uses this new awareness as growth continues.

This book shows everyday ways in which children see themselves as different. Discussion between adults and children is almost certain to bring up other examples of differences. Girls and boys frequently seek reasons for what they observe, asking the intelligent and inevitable “Why?” Sometimes reasons can be given. Sometimes differences exist for which there are no apparent reasons.

Adult reassurance helps the girl or boy who feels different and who is thought by the group to be unlike the others in some way. This reassurance plays a significant role in interpreting this sensitive area. The way is paved for acceptance and respect for each individual and for healthy self-respect.

Differences make our world more interesting, colorful, and richer than it would be if everyone were alike. This book helps children feel pride in the specialness of “Being me!”

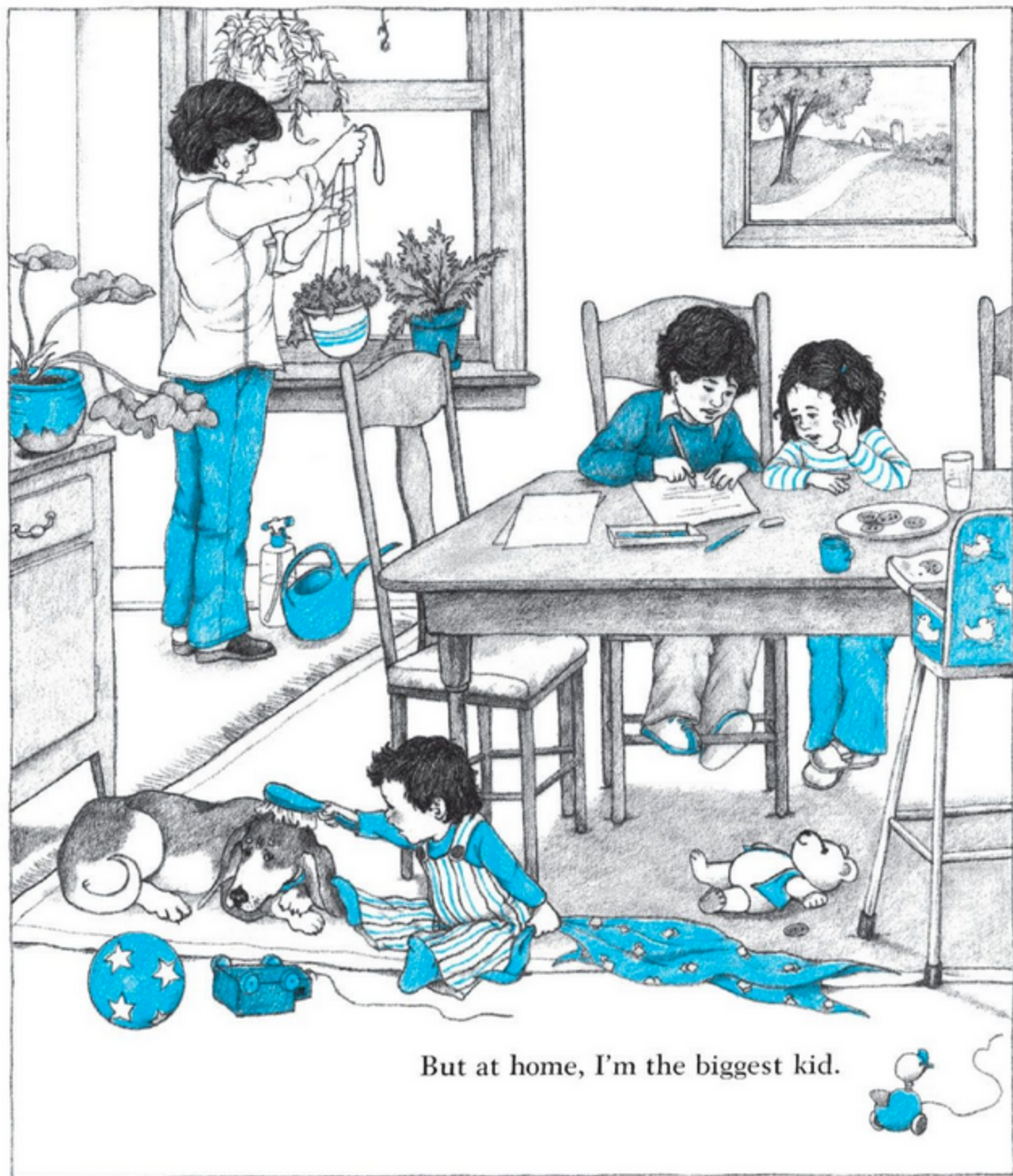


I'm different!
I'm getting a big front tooth.
What's different about you?

SVILLE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

We're all different sizes
at school.
Look how big Greg is.
Look how small Libby is.
And I'm right in-between.





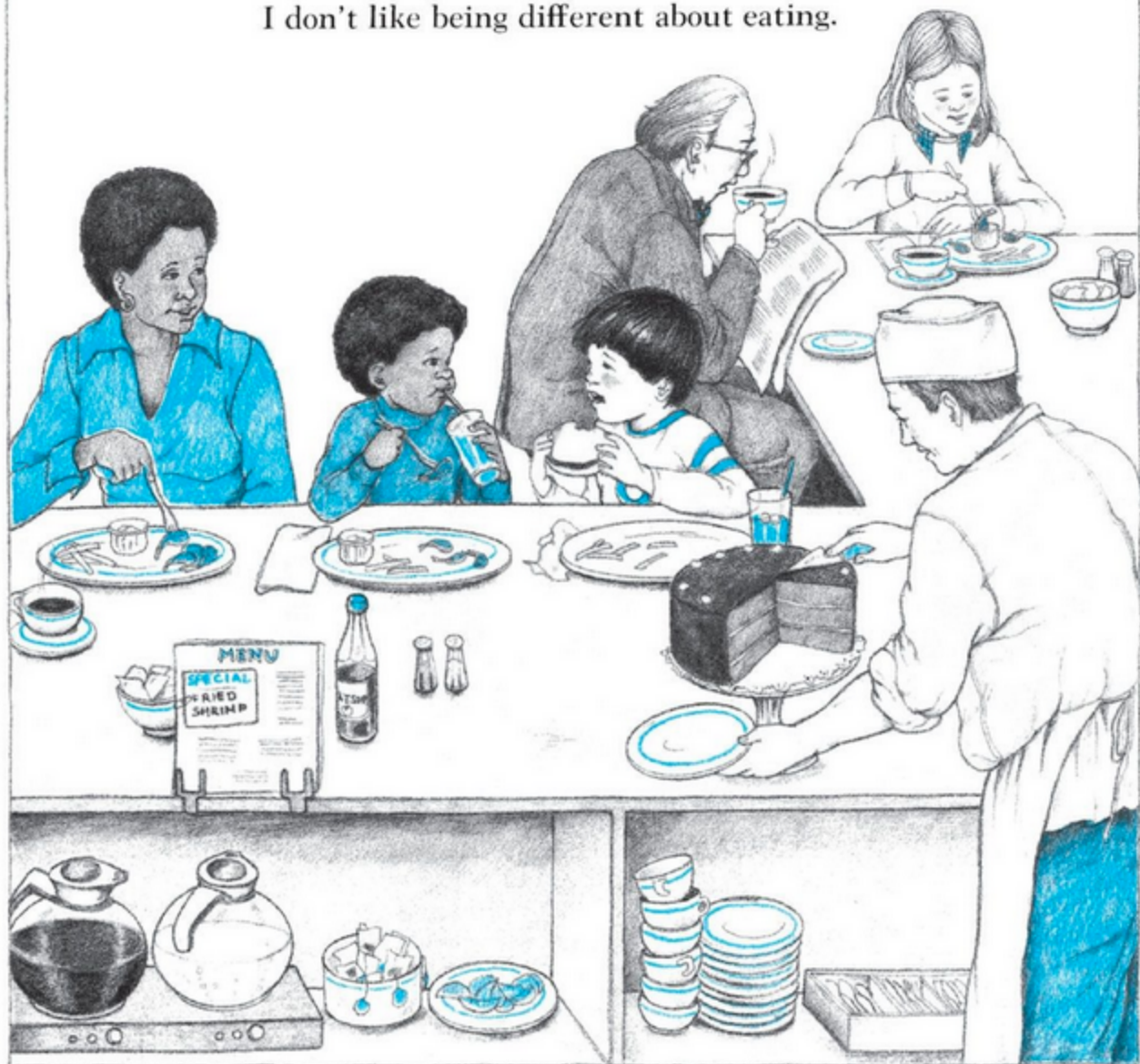
But at home, I'm the biggest kid.



My mother and my brothers
all have blond hair.
My father and my sister have
brown hair.
Why am I different?
My hair is red.



I can't eat chocolate or shrimp or clams.
If I ate them, I'd feel sick.
I wonder if they taste as good as people say.
I don't like being different about eating.



People can do different things.
You draw better pictures than I do.
I can write better than you.
That's how I'm different.
Charlie's fastest with puzzles.
Cindy can whistle. And remember
how good Kearsten is at cutting
out snowflakes?



