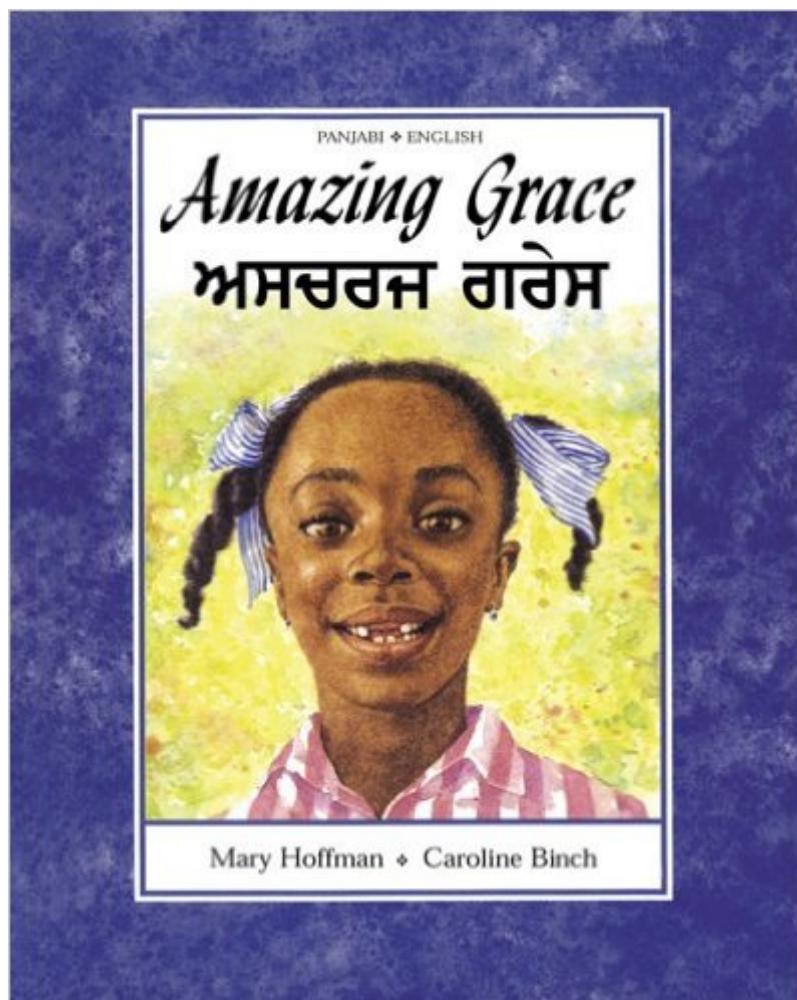


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# Amazing Grace (English And Punjabi Edition)



## **Synopsis**

Dual language Panjabi/English edition of the international bestseller. Grace loves to act out stories. Sometimes she plays the leading part, sometimes she is 'a cast of thousands.' When her school decides to perform Peter Pan, Grace is longing to play Peter, but her classmates say that Peter was a boy, and besides, he wasn't black...But Grace's Ma and Nana tell her she can be anything she wants if she puts her mind to it...

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

A child's imagination is one of the purest forms of expression. Author Hoffman has captured that innocence in this superb tale. Grace, like so many youngsters, spends much of her day in the pleasures of "acting out" the characters that populate the pages of the books she reads. She feels that she can do and be anything that she desires. The theme of pursuing one's dreams is the type of message to which all can relate. As one turns the pages of this beautifully illustrated book, one can enjoy the little girl's imaginary adventures. When Grace learns of the part in "Peter Pan," the reader is able to identify with this as a part of school life. The illustrator has also balanced the classroom with children of varied ethnic and racial backgrounds. This is a plus in the age of being "politically correct." The language of the book is reflective with the age of the intended reading audience. With a little adult help, the average primary child will "read" this one with great relish. The resolve of the adults in the family to encourage Grace in pursuit of her dreams is refreshing. Most of us let barriers prevent us from doing the same. This is one great children's book!

Do you need a book that confronts racism, appreciates theater, and shatters stereotypes on a

primary level? If so, Amazing Grace, by Mary Hoffman, is the book for you. Not only does this book cover the above topics, but is also highlights on key items for younger readers, such as reading about individual achievements and moral dilemmas. Grace, a first grade African American female, has an imagination with no boundaries. Grace loves to act out stories that she is told. At school, Grace's heart runs with excitement when her teacher announces that the class is going to do the play Peter Pan. Everyone wants to be Peter Pan, which highlights the enthusiasm for theater among these students. However, as Grace wants to be Peter Pan, her classmates tell her first that she can't because she is not a male. The second reason her classmates say is that she can't be Peter Pan is because she is black. Here lies the racism in this book. The teacher allows each student to take home lines and memorize them to try out for roles. The best would get Peter Pan. In the mean time, Grace's grandmother takes her to a Romeo and Juliet ballet that features a black Juliet. This inspires Grace to go home and learn those lines as best as she can so that she will be the best one in the class. When it is time to try out, Grace is by far the best Peter Pan and the class votes to let her fill this role. This is where the shattering of stereotypes comes into play. Past the social issues, Amazing Grace also fulfills the requirements that the Temple textbook states are good children's literature. First, children's literature must speak to the child. Children, especially that would read Amazing Grace, are extremely egocentric. Therefore, they want to read about the potential for individual achievement. Any child that is repressed for any reason could identify with Grace. There are a lot of things that Peter Pan was not, not just simply black. African American students could truly identify with Grace, having to deal with their differences that are spawned by their skin color and culture. The last noticeable characteristic of good children's literature apparent in Amazing Grace is the presence of in depth thought, especially on morals. This book spawns thought on all the social issues mentioned above. This book would most certainly cause students to re- evaluate their thoughts and stances on racism, stereotypes, and maybe even theater. So many times, students think that what their parents believe is what they have to believe. However, educating students can help not only in letting them make their own decisions, but also educating their parents as well. Finally, this book is an excellent book for teachers because there are many activities that can be done to accompany the reading. Perhaps this would be a great book to lead into their own class play. Another idea is to place this in a unit on racism and segregation in the upper elementary levels. Also, a teacher could do dress up day and the students could be whatever they want to be. All stereotypes are shattered for the day and each student can be free to be who they are. Amazing Grace may be one of the most influential books that I have ever read on racism and the way that Grace and her family handle this issue is admirable.

This is an excellent children's book. I use it every year in my classroom because my students can identify so well with Grace. There are so many language arts activities that can be used with it. Grace is an unforgettable character. She knows what she wants and is undaunted by would-be obstacles in her path. With the help of loving family members she can do anything she sets her mind to!

Not only does it reinforce the positive message that you can do anything, but it also teaches tolerance and a broadening of your ideas of what can and cannot be. I love this book! Beautiful illustrations, beautiful message for my daughter, who, incidentally, is fair skinned.

I liked this story because Grace can be Peter Pan if she put her mind to it. My favorite part is after the ballet. I would recommend this book to a friend because its about your imagery. The book is amazing. By: S.J.Los Angeles Age 5

I am a parent/grandparent of multiracial children and while I looked to this book for a wonderful example of being true to yourself and never giving up I also looked at it for clues on using your imagination. This is something that is hard to teach children....(after all MTV tells us what images music should bring to mind)....but the wonderful things she uses to support her imaginary world are just great! (where else would you find a hair brush used as the tail on the Trojan Horse!) She's fiesty and wonderful...and we enjoy her a lot.

I read this book to three children I tutored in Washington, DC and they loved it even though they were in three different age groups. Especially, the great illustrations and positive storyline.

Beautiful art and a wonderful message for kids. My niece doesn't have the language to talk about race, and it's hard to talk to her about such a complex and sensitive subject without confusing her. This story helped her see the ways that someone who looks different is really the same underneath. My niece also likes performing, and she is close with her mother and her grandmother, so she saw that she had a lot in common with Grace (she also liked the cat). I know it was just the start of the conversation, but having books like this to read has really helped.

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