



# **Children Just Like Me: A new celebration of children around the world**

*Catherine Saunders , Sam Priddy , Katy Lennon*

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A favorite in classrooms, libraries, and homes, *Children Just Like Me* is a comprehensive view of international cultures, exploring diverse backgrounds from Argentina to New Zealand to China to Israel. Children will learn about their peers around the world through engaging photographs and understandable text laid out in DK's distinctive style.

Highlighting over 30 countries, *Children Just Like Me* profiles over 40 children and their daily lives. From rural farms to busy cities to riverboats, this celebration of children around the world shows the many ways children are different and the many ways they are the same, no matter where they live.

Meet Bolat, an eight-year-old from Kazakhstan who likes to cycle, play with his pet dogs, and play the dromba; Joaquin from New Jersey who enjoys reading and spending time with his family, and whose favorite food is bacon; or Yaroslav from Moscow who likes to make robots. Daily routines, stories of friends and family, and dreams for the future are spoken directly from the children themselves, making the content appropriate and interesting to draw in young readers.

To celebrate the twentieth anniversary of this special project, all-new photography, maps, and facts give unique insight to children's lives in our world today showing their homes, food, outfits, schools, families, and hobbies.

A passport to a celebratory journey around the world, *Children Just Like Me* is perfect for children who are curious about the children of the world and their stories.

## Reviews:

"Factual, respectful, and insightful...provides just the right balance of information and visual interest." - **School Library Journal**

"Provide[s] hours of fascinating browsing and the beginnings of real insight into other cultures." - **Horn Book Magazine**

"The candid, approachable text, accompanying quotes, and nuggets of information make the lives of these children as vivid as a friend's." - **Family Fun**

## Children Just Like Me: A new celebration of children around the world Details

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# **From Reader Review Children Just Like Me: A new celebration of children around the world for online ebook**

## **Cheryl says**

A little too happy to be believable. Children will be fascinated, but if they have any other source of imagery of the people of the world, they'll have questions.

I especially like the matter-of-fact inclusion of the Mexican boy's sister's wife.

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## **Jeani says**

I read the original Children Just Like Me book that was published in 1995 and liked it a lot, so was pleased to see a new edition. Alas, this version just didn't have the same effect as reading the original did. I'd have to go back and look at the 1995 edition again, but this one had some inconsistencies in the kinds of information about each child in that not all pieces of info are provided for every child. The tidbits of information shared can be uninteresting or shallow, so there's not much inspiration to be found in this book. This book would have benefited from closer editing.

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## **Monica P says**

Very good, except for the addition of the homosexual couple on one page. Was able to scoot past that with a little misdirection, but would have preferred it had not been included. Didn't want to explain that to my 1st-grader.

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## **Barbara Band says**

Originally published in 1995, this is an updated edition because, as it says in the foreword, "the world has changed a lot". I loved this book when it first came out and this new version is just as fascinating and vibrant.

It features forty-four children from all six continents, and was created by talking to them so has an authentic voice and gives a real snapshot of each of their lives. Each section starts with an introduction and fact file about the continent followed by pages that detail the lives of the individual children. Maps show the location of each child, photos show their families, homes, clothes and pets, there is also information about how to say "hello" in each language plus a copy of their signature. In addition, there is information about their interests, school life and favourite foods; this is the sort of book that you can pick up and browse, finding something new with every viewing.

Children are intrigued by other children and this book is a great introduction to other cultures showing both differences, such as in clothes or daily lives, but also that they have many similarities such as an interest in sport or the same hobbies and pets.

Perfect for any school library – it is aimed at KS2 (the individual children are aged between 7 and 10 years) but it would also be of interest to readers in KS3 as well as younger children.

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### **Emily Bell says**

#### **What I Liked**

I was beyond excited to see that there was a modernized version of the book that I grew up reading. I immediately ordered this, read it, and put it in my kids room where foster children will be coming in and out. It's so important for children to learn as young as possible that children all around the world are like them in a lot of ways - and different in a lot of beautiful ways!

#### **What I Didn't Like**

Some of the features of the first book weren't included that I missed, like the pronunciation of the children's names, for example. I also enjoyed the back pages of the first book that contained stories from the photographers' travels around the world.

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### **Annie says**

This would be an amazing resource to teach cultural universals, as each page describes children all over the world, including their home, school, favorite foods, families, activities, etc. There are beautiful photographs that children of all ages would enjoy.

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### **Abraham Ray says**

good book about children form around the world!

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### **Emma says**

I loved perusing every detail of this book, just like I did with the original version when I was little.

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### **Tiffiny says**

My 5 year old loved this book. She is so interested in other children and the world.

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### **Kerri says**

I still have my copy of the original version that came out in the 90's, and I was super excited to see that this had been updated and republished. I still remember a lot of information about the kids from the original, and

I think this is a great book for showing kids what other children's lives are like around the world. Fantastic update, and one I will definitely recommend at any opportunity.

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### **Ame says**

Oh wow, I still treasure the original book from 1995 so I couldn't wait to go through this one. Hopefully my kids will be interested in this new edition in a couple of years!

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### **Marina says**

Another fun DK book that has just the right amount of images and text.

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### **La Coccinelle says**

Many years ago, I picked up the original *Children Just Like Me* from the library. Even though I was just out of childhood myself at the time, I still found the book fascinating. When I saw that there was an updated version, I thought I'd have a look. I'm sad to say that I didn't find this one nearly as interesting as the original. It didn't seem as diverse as I remember the other one being, especially with regards to kids' economic situations. In fact, for a large portion of this book (especially in the Americas and Europe), I thought it should be retitled to something like: *Children Just Like Me in the 1%*.

I'm Canadian, so the book didn't start off on a great foot for me. All of Canada, a huge country with myriad adopted cultures--as well as varied Indigenous cultures--is represented by one little girl from Quebec who eats poutine. Setting aside for a moment the fact that a lot of the time Quebec doesn't even want to be part of Canada, who thought that one kid for such a vast and varied country was a good idea? The US got four kids to represent them. It's obvious who this book was written and published for.

The questionable selection of kids continues through South America. I had no idea everyone there was so wealthy! (I'm being facetious, of course.) Two out of the three kids (only Brazil, Argentina, and Colombia are representing the whole continent) appear to be quite well off, especially Trini, who plays tennis and golf, lives in a fancy house, and goes horseback riding in the mountains. Is that typical for most Argentinian kids? I have my doubts.

In Europe, we have two boys from France, and a weak selection of examples from other countries. Countries like Scotland (yes, I know it's part of the UK, but England was included separately), Italy, and the Netherlands don't appear at all. Much of Eastern Europe is missing, too, and the Russian kid likes to go on vacation in the Ukraine (there are no mentions of any political issues, or why this could be problematic).

Africa gives us a little more diversity, and we see the first example of a kid with any sort of disability (a little girl with spina bifida). I found this aspect of the book unrealistic. Aside from her and the kid from New Zealand (who had leukemia when he was younger), everybody is healthy. Nobody else has any sort of disability. Even the siblings are all typical. These days, when pretty much everyone knows someone who has something like autism or ADHD, it seems a bit disingenuous to put out a children's book that doesn't reflect this reality. In a true cross-section of the population, at least one of these kids (or their siblings) should have

one of these conditions, considering the current rates.

There are other things I don't like about this book, either. The page on China simply states that many families only have one child. No mention is made as to why this is. Kids aren't stupid. I think they can handle knowing that there was a law that dictated how many children parents were allowed to have. Such information could've opened up interesting discussions. Instead, the book uses an approach that almost seems a bit like censorship. While I get that nobody wanted to write a depressing book, the reality is that some kids live in places that suck. The political climate might be oppressive. The weather might be causing people to suffer. There might be a war going on. None of these things are addressed in the book. There are no children living in refugee camps. There aren't even any refugee families living in new countries. Since this book was only published in 2016, I would have liked to see some of that new reality included.

Finally, if these kids are representative of our future, then our planet is kind of screwed. Sure, they give lip service to wanting to help the environment, but at the same time, nearly all of them (even the Buddhists) eat meat-heavy diets. The kid from Brazil who's so worried about deforestation comes across as naive and totally brainwashed by his culture and parents. Animal agriculture is the biggest contributor to rainforest destruction, so you can't say you want to stop deforestation while you're stuffing your face with meat... unless you're okay with being a huge hypocrite. Where are the vegetarian/vegan kids who are passionate about animal rights? There are none in this book. That makes me sad.

One day, I'll have to go back and have a look at the original *Children Just Like Me* and see if it's still as good as I remember it being. I'm afraid that this updated version left me cold. The selection of kids just isn't good enough. Larger countries or countries with diverse communities could've had more representation. More countries could've been represented. France doesn't really need two examples, especially if it's going to be at the expense of other countries that didn't get included at all. South Africa could've included a white kid instead of two black ones. (Nelson Mandela is mentioned, but only in passing; the book just calls him a famous South African leader. This could've been an opportunity to talk about racism and apartheid, but it was missed.)

This just seems like an unrealistically cheery, cherry-picked book. I expected better, especially from DK.

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## **Alyssa Fay says**

1. Awards: None found
2. Appropriate grade level(s): 2-5
3. This book introduces international cultures by highlighting 36 different countries and exploring the profiles of 44 different children and their daily lives. It shows the many ways in which children are different but also the same across a multitude of cultures. It includes photography, maps, and an easy-to-read factual layout that provides knowledge on the children's homes, food, outfits, schools, families, and hobbies.
4. I really enjoy the the print features used in this book that allow it to be easily navigated for all readers. The profiles featured in the book are very diverse and packed full of information-making the reader feel like they really get to know these children from around the world. I also enjoyed the dense level of photographs used that really immerse the reader into the culture they are learning about.
5. 2-3 in class uses:
  1. Teaching about cultures throughout the world.
  2. Use to explore student's own diverse background and culture by creating each of their own culture profile.
  3. Teaching geography.

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**Mely says**

A great way to introduce children to other cultures. A wide variety countries, religions and traditions.

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