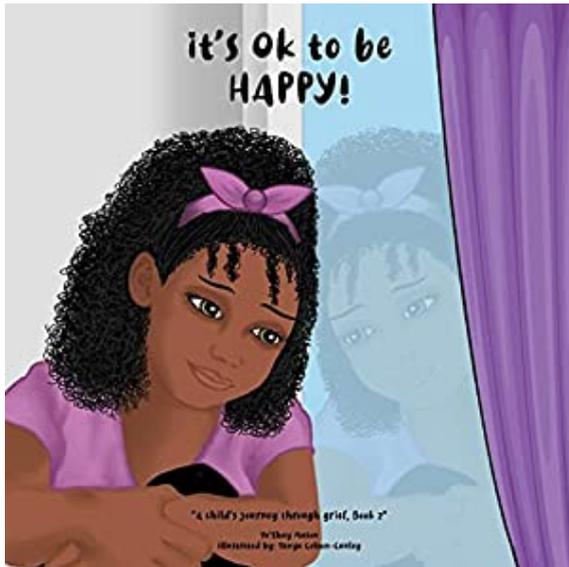




Readers' Favorite[®] Book Reviews and Award Contest

Book Review Mini-Critique



Below you will find ratings (scale of 1-5) with general descriptions for the major parts of your book followed by your Readers' Favorite review. Although this is just a Mini-Critique, we hope it will give you an insight into how readers may view the different components of your book.

These are the opinions of your reviewer, and although they are not a literary professional, they are an avid reader of books just like yours.

Title: It's Ok To Be Happy
Subtitle: A Child's Journey Through Grief, Book 2
Author: Ta'Shay Mason
Genre: Children - Picture Book



Appearance: The appearance of a book can make a significant impact on the experience of a reader, whose enjoyment is often enhanced by an enticing cover, an intriguing table of contents, interesting chapter headings, and when possible, eye-catching illustrations.

5

Plot: The characters of a book should be well defined with strengths and flaws, and while they do not have to be likable, the reader does have to be able to form a connection with them. The tone should be consistent, the theme should be clear, and the plot should be original or told from a unique perspective. For informative books -- those without plot and characters--this rating refers primarily to your concept and how well you presented it.

5

Development: Development refers to how effectively you told your story or discussed your topic. The dialogue should be realistic, the descriptions should be vivid, and the material should be concise and coherent. Organization is also a key factor, especially for informative books -- those without plot and characters. The order in which you tell your story or explain your topic and how smoothly it flows can have a huge impact on the reader's understanding and enjoyment of the material.

5

Formatting: Formatting is the single most overlooked area by authors. The way in which you describe scenes, display dialogue, and shift point of view can make or break your story. In addition, excessive grammatical errors and typos can give your book an amateurish feel and even put off readers completely.

5

Marketability: Marketability refers to how effectively you wrote your book for your target audience. Authors may include content that is above or below the understanding of their target reader, or include concepts, opinions or language that can accidentally confuse or alienate some readers. Although by its nature this rating is very subjective, a very low rating here and poor reviews may indicate an issue with your book in this area.

5

Overall Opinion: The overall starred rating takes into account all these elements and describes the overall reading experience of your reviewer. This is the official Readers' Favorite review rating for your book.

5

Review:

Reviewed by Barbara Fanson for Readers' Favorite

I dare you to read the book *It's OK to be Happy without a tear*. This book will cause you to reflect on your own life and losses, but it may also help bring closure. Author Ta'Shay Mason takes us on a child's journey through grief while offering coping mechanisms to try. Grief is a difficult topic for all of us, but the author manages to pave a road through the darkness to help acknowledge sadness, anger, guilt, and any other emotions we may be feeling. I highly recommend this book for school and public libraries, but also palliative care homes. Although the book is written from a child's perspective, adults will benefit from the suggestions offered to cope with the loss of a loved one, including pets.

It's OK to be Happy is a must-have book for children and adults who might be experiencing a loss due to death, disability, or dementia. Author Ta'Shay Mason expresses a lot of emotion through the life of the main character Jazmine whose father passed suddenly. Recognizing your feelings and acknowledging the grieving process is the first step to feeling better. You will feel better and it's ok to feel happy, too. I especially love the creative layout on the author's page. Illustrator Tanya Colton-Cauley provides beautiful, full-page artwork with just about every emotion. It can be comforting to reminisce about someone and share memories with others, but eventually, we need to take a chance and try new things. And it's okay to have fun and make new memories.