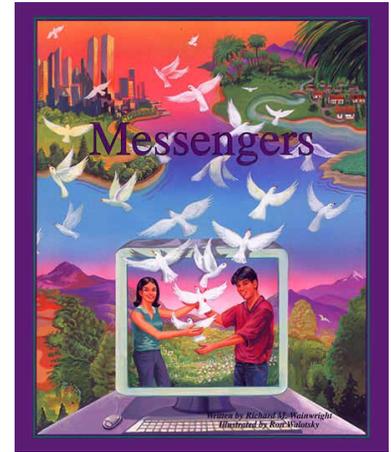


Messengers

By
Richard M. Wainwright



Synopsis

Tyler Lee Smith, an adopted boy of Philippino and Chinese descent finds himself on a journey filled with hardship, triumphs and self-exploration as he follows his own unique path. His life takes its first turn when he experiences a serious head injury. After his recovery, Tyler begins to see his life through a new lens. Throughout the story, many themes are brought to light including self-doubt, emotional growth, the joy of helping others, a family's unconditional love for one another, homelessness, philanthropy, adoption, the benefits and limitations of technology, as well as the quest for inner peace. This is a story about accepting who you are and understanding the joy of giving back to others. But most importantly, Tyler learns that each one of us can make a difference — that we are all "Messengers".

Discussion Questions

1. How would you describe Tyler's life before the accident?
2. Have you ever had an experience that has made it possible for you to see life in a different light? If not, do you know anyone who might have had such an experience? Discuss what changes occurred for you or that person.
3. Choose two of the characters and explain how they might be considered "Messengers".
4. What is it that makes someone a "Messenger"? Do you know anyone including yourself who might be considered a "Messenger"?
5. Describe how Tyler's feelings about being adopted were different before and after his accident.
6. What do you think it might feel like to be adopted? Do you know anyone who is adopted?
7. In what ways did Tyler benefit from volunteering, and how do you think it affected his sense of self and family?
8. Have you ever seen a shelter for homeless people? What do you think about people who are homeless?
9. Have you, or a family member ever volunteered? What did you do, and how did it make you feel?
10. What is the significance of Tyler's fixing people's lights in the story? How do their lives change after the lights get fixed?

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