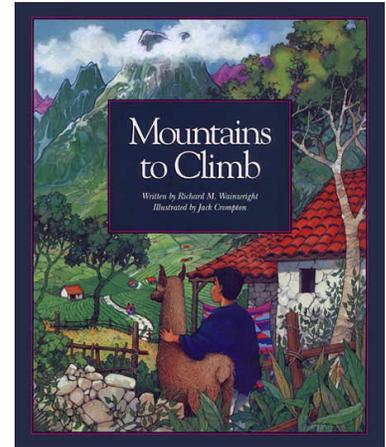


Mountains to Climb

By
Richard M. Wainwright



Synopsis

Mountains to Climb is a heartwarming story that deals with overcoming prejudice and handicaps in a positive and realistic manner. It is a story of Roberto, a young Andean boy and proud owner of a one-eyed llama who comes to the United States. Throughout the story they meet with discrimination, ridicule, and prejudice until Roberto remembers his father's advice, "in every person's life there will be many mountains to climb, but each can be conquered one step at a time." This is the beginning of his process of reaching out and helping others overcome their fears and dislike of people and things that different from them. With Roberto's help, two physically challenged friends are also able to find acceptance and love.

Discussion Questions

1. Name two or more countries in South America where part of this story takes place. If you find out where llamas live, it will lead you to the answer.
2. Why did Roberto accept the baby llama so quickly even though she only had one eye? Was she really that different from other llamas?
3. How would you feel leaving home and going to another country to study?
4. What did Roberto's father mean when he said, "in every person's life there will be many mountains to climb"?
5. Why shouldn't we judge others by what they look like or by the clothes they wear?
6. How do we show that we are tolerant of others differences?
7. Have you ever had to tell someone or a group of people your true feelings?
8. What do you think the children in the classroom were feeling when Roberto stood up to share his feelings about the discrimination he had experienced in the United States?
9. Do you know anyone who is physically challenged? If so, share what you know about that person and talk about what abilities and talents that person possesses. How could you/or your class make a person who is different or physically challenged feel welcome?
10. What are some of the lessons the two physically-challenged boys teach others in the story?
11. Why did Roberto's friend give him a picture that said: "Roberto sees with his heart"?

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