

Using Contrasting Words and Colors to Find Deeper Meaning

Book Title: Love Is Powerful

Published by Candlewick Press

About the Book: A little girl carries a big message—and finds it thrillingly amplified by the rallying crowd around her—in an empowering story for the youngest of activists.

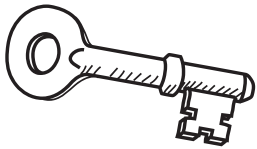


LEARNING TARGETS

I look for deeper meanings in words.

I can find clues in the illustrations that add meaning to the story.

I understand that my words are powerful and make a difference.



KEY VOCABULARY

Powerful

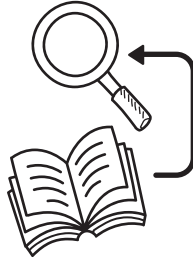
Love

KEY PHRASES

Slipped through the elevator door (didn't fall, but moved quickly)

Swelled for blocks

Tall as a building



Before Reading, Set the Context

Notice the colors in LeUyen Pham's cover illustration. There are warm colors: pink and yellow, and cool colors, gray and blue. Why would an illustrator use warm colors in some places and cool colors in others?

I wonder why people are holding signs? Why do you think that is? Where are people going?

Purpose: When you hear the word POWERFUL, what images come to mind? [Strong, big, muscles, superheroes?] What words do you think of when you hear the word LOVE? [Soft, mushy, pink, hearts.] LOVE and POWERFUL can seem like opposites, especially if you think of being powerful as being big and strong and love as soft and gentle. The title is *Love Is Powerful*. What are ways love can be powerful? Let's read together. Notice the illustrations and pay attention to word choices to see what we discover.

Reading Together

- **TITLE PAGE** Notice the dark windows compared to Mari's glowing one. What do you think the illustrator is trying to show? What else do you notice?
- **"BUSES, CARS, AND TAXIS HONKED AND GRUMBLED DOWN THE STREET."** If you described something as "honking" and "grumbling," what kind of emotions might that express? How is that in contrast to the feeling shown in Mari's window? Why would the author and illustrator use these contrasting images and words? What does it tell us about Mari and how she feels about what's going on around her?
- **"THEY SLIPPED THROUGH THE ELEVATOR DOORS."** Why would the illustrator turn the illustration this way? What does it tell us about where Mari lives?

Notice the trail of hearts following Mari and her mom down the elevator and outside. What do you think the illustrator is trying to show with the trail of hearts? What else do you notice about the colors?

"They slipped through the elevator doors." 'Slip' usually means to fall. / *slipped on the ice.* The author uses the word differently here. What does 'slip' mean in this sentence?

- **"MARI TUGGED ON HER MAMA'S ARM TO ASK HER TO KNEEL DOWN. THEN SHE WHISPERED . . ."** How is Mari feeling now? [Nervous, overwhelmed?] How do we know? [Words and phrases: 'tug on mama's arm, kneel down, whisper. Illustration: Mari small and to the side, the crowd growing larger around her and off the page.]

- **“MAMA LIFTED MARI UP, AND FOR A MOMENT SHE FELT LIKE SHE WAS FLYING.”** What do you notice in the illustration? [Mari and her mom are very small in a very big crowd.] What else do you notice? [Light? Hearts?]
- **“MARI COULD SEE THE CROWD SWELL FOR BLOCKS.”** What do you think the author means when she says the “crowd swells for blocks?”
- **“MARI BOBBED ABOVE THE CROWD.”** Page: What does Mari feel now? How can you tell? Words and phrases: A canary fluttering over trees. [Excited, happy.] Tall as one of the buildings. [Big, strong.] Illustration: Mari sits above the crowd, pink glow around her, she’s smiling.

One of the signs reads: *Hate cannot drive out hate. Only love can.* What do you think that means? What do you think is more powerful, Hate or Love?

- **“MARI RAISED HER SIGN FOR EVERYONE TO SEE.”** Pause & Predict: What will happen next? Will anyone hear Mari’s message? If they do, how do you think they’ll respond?
- **“THROUGH THE ROAR, HER VOICE WAS HEARD . . . ”** What do you notice about the people around Mari? Did they hear her message? How can you tell? [Their heads and eyes are turned toward her, they’re smiling.] How does Mari feel now? What are the clues?

What else can we tell from the illustrations on this page? How does the illustrator use warm and cool colors? [Notice the hearts growing around Mari, through the crowd in a ripple effect.] What is the illustrator trying to show?

- **“THIS TIME, WHEN THE CROWD CALLED BACK, MARI’S MESSAGE RUMBLED DOWN THE STREET AND ECHOED OFF THE BUILDINGS.”** Earlier, the author described the traffic as “honking” and “grumbling.” Here, she describes Mari’s message as “rumbling” and “loud as breaking waves.” Rumbling is often used to describe thunder, or something that grows louder. Breaking waves are powerful and loud. Why do you think the author uses these words to describe Mari’s message?

Notice the hearts. Where might the trail of hearts go next?



Illustrations 2020 © LeUyen Pham, courtesy of Candlewick Press

You can help share Mari’s message

and make it as loud as breaking waves by having a parent or teacher share your Love Is Powerful sign on Instagram with the hashtag

#LovesPowerful
@LovesPowerful2020



Extend the Experience



A Message for the World If you heard Mari’s message all the way in your home or classroom, how would you keep Mari’s message going? Put hearts in your windows, make a yard sign, or create sidewalk art?

Show love is powerful by helping a neighbor or doing a service project?
What are other ways you can show that love is powerful?

Contrasting Words and Colors to Add Meaning to the Story Write a sentence that shows contrasting emotions, and then illustrate your writing. Think about how you can use colors and body language to draw your writing.

Example sentence:

The bear happily devoured the picnic lunch while the surprised campers hid in a tree.
Emotions: Happy and Satisfied vs. Scared and Surprised



How would you draw the bear to show it is happy or satisfied? What colors might you use and why?
How can you draw the campers to show that they’re scared or surprised?

