

Emma and Josh heard that something happened in their town.
A Black man was shot by the police.

"Why did the police shoot that man?"

"Can police go to jail?"

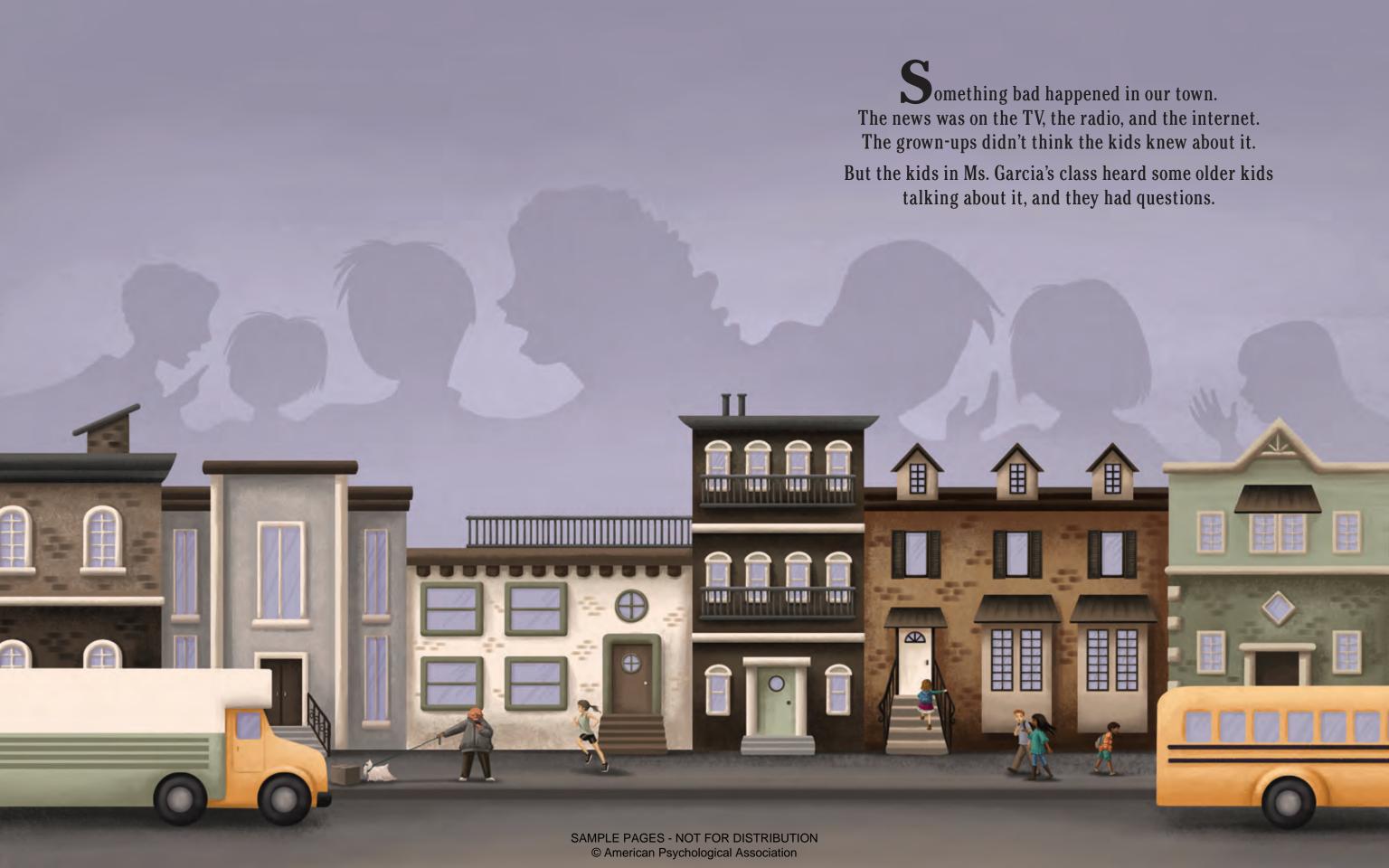
Something Happened in Our Town follows two families—one White, one Black—as they discuss a police shooting of a Black man in their community. The story aims to answer children's questions about such traumatic events, and to help children identify and counter racial injustice in their own lives.

Includes an extensive Note to Parents and Caregivers with guidelines for discussing race and racism with children, child-friendly definitions, and sample dialogues.





SOMETHING HAPPENED IN OUR TOWN A CHILD'S STORY ABOUT RACIAL INJUSTICE MARIANNE CELANO, MARIETTA COLLINS, ILLUSTRATED BY JENNIFER ZIVOIN SAMPLE PAGES - NOT FOR DISTRIBUTION © American Psychologica Association





After school, Emma asked her mother: "Why did the police shoot that man?" "It was a mistake," said her mother. "I feel sad for the man and his family." "Yes, the police thought he had a gun," said her father.

"It wasn't a mistake," said her sister, Liz.

"The cops shot him because he was Black."

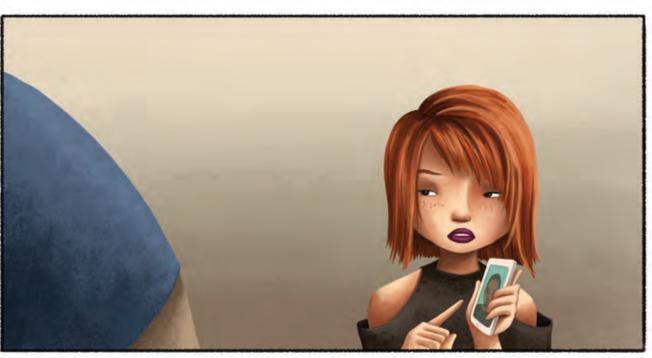


Emma was confused. "He is brown, not black," she said.

"Some Black people have dark brown skin, and some have light brown skin," Emma's father explained.

"'Black' usually means African American.

Most of their ancestors were brought here from Africa as slaves."



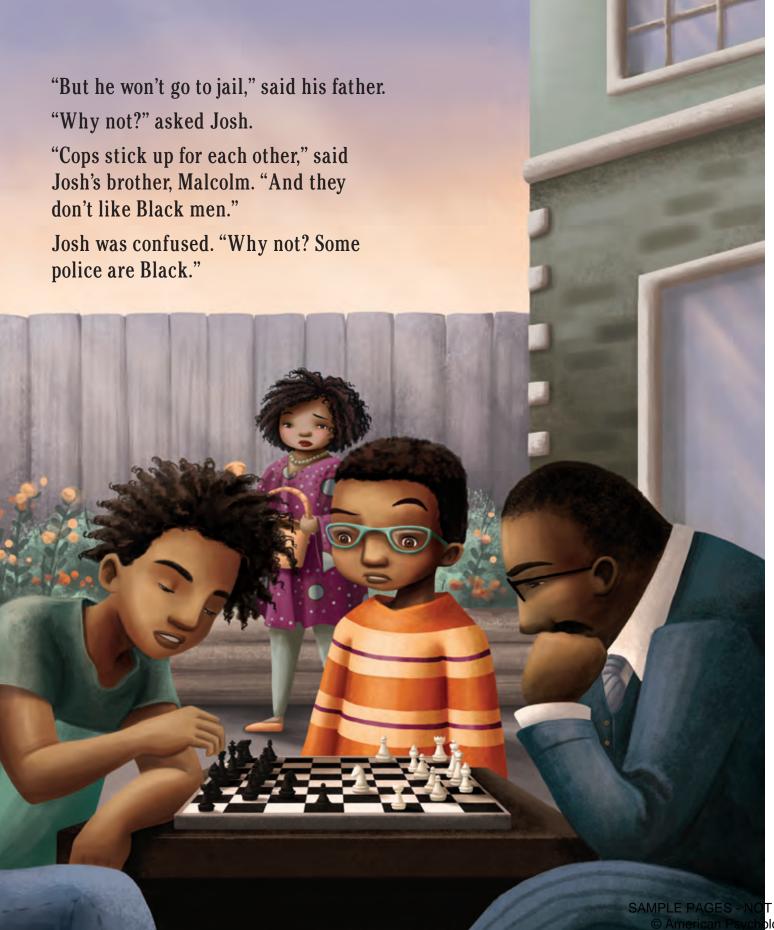
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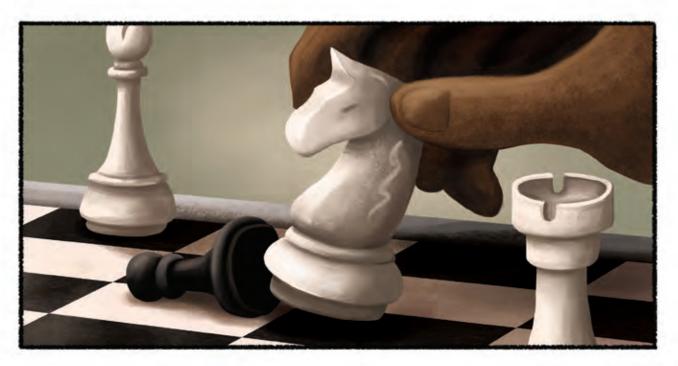






"You're right," said his mother. "Uncle James is a police officer, and so is my friend Kenya."

"There are many cops, Black and White, who make good choices," said his father. "But we can't always count on them to do what's right."



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