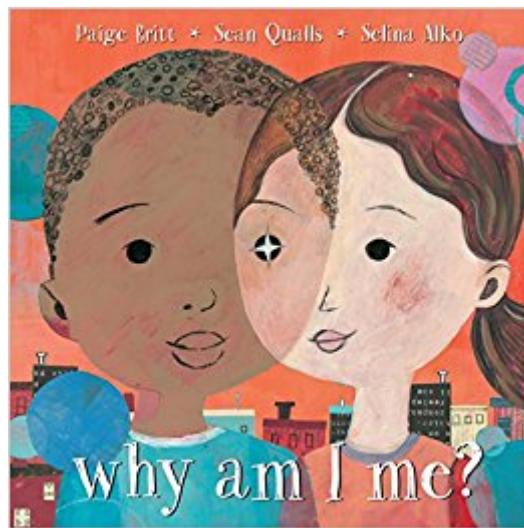


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# Why Am I Me?



## Synopsis

Presented as a thoughtful, poetic exchange between two characters -- who don't realize they are thinking and asking the very same questions -- this beautiful celebration of our humanity and diversity invites readers of all ages to imagine a world where there is no you or me, only we. If the first step toward healing the world is to build bridges of empathy and celebrate rather than discriminate, *Why Am I Me?* helps foster a much-needed sense of connection, compassion, and love.

## Book Information

Hardcover: 40 pages

Publisher: Scholastic Press (August 29, 2017)

Language: English

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Product Dimensions: 10.3 x 0.4 x 10.1 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.1 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars 2 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #2,018 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #9 in Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Explore the World #93 in Books > Children's Books > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Fantasy & Magic #291 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life

Age Range: 4 - 8 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 3

## Customer Reviews

PEOPLE ARE RAVING ABOUT WHY AM I ME? Words by Paige Britt, Pictures by Sean Qualls and Selina Alko \* "A mindful, captivating ode to wonder and a must for any story- or bedtime repertoire." -- Kirkus Reviews, starred review \* "Universal questions combine with richly layered, captivating compositions, presenting opportunities for careful examination and stimulating conversations." -- School Library Journal, starred review \* "[A] benevolent, multicultural landscape depicted in lushly textured, jewel-toned collage and paint." -- Publishers Weekly, starred review \* "The interplay of art and text will invite the book's audience to grapple with themes of individuality, diversity, universality, and what it means to be human." -- Horn Book Review "An ordinary trip home becomes a journey in wonder and compassion." -- Sophie Blackall, Caldecott Medalist "[A] perfect blend of words and images | took my breath away." -- Tomie DePaola, Caldecott Medalist "I love the

vibrancy of the illustrations." -- Javaka Steptoe, Caldecott Medalist "Selina and Sean's paintings bring this love story gloriously to the page | I felt like I had been dropped right into the center of everything. Loved it!" -- Jacqueline Woodson, Newbery Honoree and National Book Award Winner "Gentle illustrations that capture a timely theme: the value of empathy." -- Emily Nussbaum, Pulitzer Prize-winning television critic for *The New Yorker* "Gorgeous." -- Grace Lin, Newbery Honoree

Paige Britt has been asking big questions since she was a small child. Her search for answers led her to write books that might inspire young readers to think, explore, and stay open to life's mysteries. Her debut novel, *The Lost Track of Time*, was hailed by *Publishers Weekly* in a starred review as an "exuberant homage to the power of imagination." • *Why Am I Me?* is her first picture book. She lives near Austin, Texas, with her husband. Visit her online at [paigebritt.com](http://paigebritt.com). Selina Alko has always been curious about different people and cultures, which stems, in part, from growing up with a Canadian mother and a Turkish father, who spoke seven languages and taught her to paint. Her art brims with optimism, experimentation, and a deep commitment to multiculturalism and human rights. She is the author of *The Case for Loving*, which she illustrated with her husband, Sean Qualls, and the co-illustrator, also with Sean, of *Two Friends* by Dean Robbins. She has written and illustrated several other acclaimed picture books, including *Daddy Christmas & Hanukkah Mama* and *B Is for Brooklyn*. She lives in Brooklyn, New York, with her family. Learn more at [selinaalko.com](http://selinaalko.com). Sean Qualls finds inspiration everywhere, from old buildings, nature, fairy tales, black memorabilia, and outsider art to cave paintings, African imagery, mythology, music, and his native Brooklyn. He is the co-illustrator, with his wife, Selina Alko, of the celebrated picture books *Two Friends* by Dean Robbins and *The Case for Loving* by Selina Alko. Other acclaimed picture books he has illustrated include *Giant Steps to Change the World* by Spike Lee and Tonya Lewis Lee, *Little Cloud* and *Lady Wind* by Toni Morrison and her son Slade, *Dizzy* by Jonah Winter, and *Before John Was a Jazz Giant* by Carole Boston Weatherford, for which he received a Coretta Scott King Illustrator Honor. He lives in Brooklyn, New York, with his family. Visit him online at [seanqualls.com](http://seanqualls.com).

Received my copy through pre-order yesterday - couldn't wait! This is not a text-heavy picture book, but Paige Britt does wonders with the slight amount of words she uses. And the marriage between text and (beautiful) illustrations is fluid and, simply stated, works!! For me, it is a perfect picture book. It is perfect to read to younger readers and older readers. The slight text doesn't mean that it's

not a deep book. There is so much going on here with this book. There can be, if you want, much to teach and ponder with readers & listeners regarding identity, race, backgrounds, families, and more...I love it! It is a must for every elementary school classroom. And I think it belongs in higher grades, too - as a way to introduce discussions about the aforementioned topics. Britt is a master with words. Selina Alko & Sean Qualls are master artists individually, but together they accomplish art that is unrepeatable!!Buy this book...and then go buy more copies to give as gifts.

This is a book that brings together a book that uses images to tell a story that is very important, deep and meaningful. While there are not a lot of words, the book shares a lot about issues of race, identify families and more! The book is a great introduction to these topics and makes you think about their topics in a whole new way. This is a book that I would encourage all to read!

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