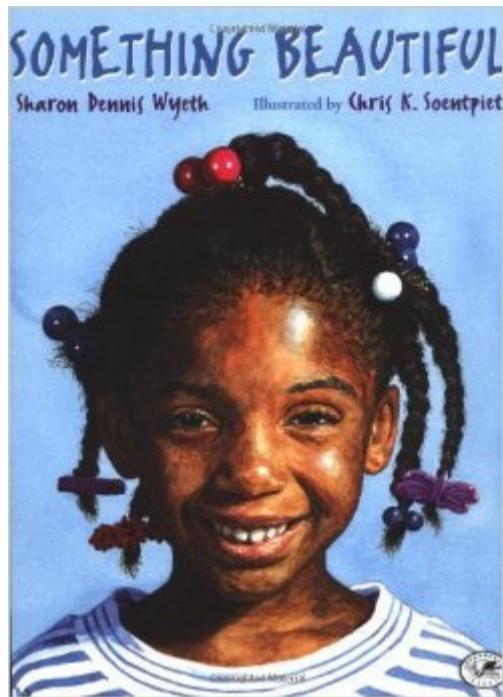


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# Something Beautiful



## **Synopsis**

A little girl longs to see beyond the scary sights on the sidewalk and the angry scribbling in the halls of her building. When her teacher writes the word beautiful on the blackboard, the girl decides to look for something beautiful in her neighborhood. Her neighbors tell her about their own beautiful things. Miss Delphine serves her a à œbeautifulâ • fried fish sandwich at her diner. At Mr. Leeâ™s à œbeautifulâ • fruit store, he offers her an apple. Old Mr. Sims invites her to touch a smooth stone he always carries. Beautiful means à œsomething that when you have it, your heart is happy,â • the girl thinks. Her search for à œsomething beautifulâ • leaves her feeling much happier. She has experienced the beauty of friendship and the power of hope.

## **Book Information**

Lexile Measure: 410L (What's this?)

Paperback: 32 pages

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ISBN-10: 0440412102

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Product Dimensions: 8.2 x 0.2 x 10.9 inches

Shipping Weight: 5.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 starsÂ See all reviewsÂ (40 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #77,170 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #14 inÂ Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > Multiculturalism #103 inÂ Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Where We Live > City Life #198 inÂ Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Multicultural Stories > African-American

Age Range: 3 - 7 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 2

## **Customer Reviews**

Sharon Dennis Wyeth's 1998 book "Something Beautiful" was inspired by her own memories of growing up in a place which was, perhaps, not as beautiful as she would have liked. We follow an unnamed little girl through her neighborhood as she looks for something beautiful as a teacher has instructed her to do. What we see is litter, broken windows, scary graffiti, homeless people, and more. But the little girl manages to find out from everyone she asks what they find beautiful around them. She is variously given the examples of a fish sandwich, a jump rope, some apples at a fruit

market, and even a smooth, heavy stone a neighbor carries for good luck. The best and most beautiful example, though, comes from the little girl's mother--and her reply ends the book on a lovely note. Chris Soenpiet's watercolor illustrations are nothing short of remarkable. They are nearly photographic in their detail and lifelike aspect, and they give a visual rhythm to the text. He is to be commended for his ability to combine both an unflinching look at a downtrodden neighborhood and examples of how we all can find beauty everyday, if we look hard enough.

This is probably one of my most favorite picture books. I teach 5th grade and read this every year. My kids sit in silence as I read it. It has beautiful pictures, is wonderfully written and has an amazing message... that no matter what you are going through or where you live, there is something beautiful in your life. My students come from poverty and low-income families, and I hope this book helps them see that they are too beautiful. (and I truly think it does!)

My favorite part of the story is when the girl helped the lady who lived on the sidewalk and when she cleaned up the courtyard. Chris Soenpiet's bright color is so colorful and outstanding. His pictures tell me the story. His pictures are so extraordinary, very incredible pictures. The illustrations are so magnificent. Could Chris Soenpiet illustrate my books? I'm in 3rd grade and I have written 100 books at home and at school. I give this book 5 stars.

My daughter received a copy of this from her "Classroom Library"- where the teacher sends books home with the kids to read. They agree to read the book and return it within two days. She is excited about this "library" and we jumped in the bed to read this book. The first thing that caught me was the illustration... POWERFUL and so REALISTIC. The details in the pictures and the surrounding area gave this book life. The message that the book imparted upon us was also a good one. Beauty is sometimes right in front of us, and it's important that our children learn that we can make something beautiful by our conduct. The child decided to look outside her door and turn what was once ugly (bottles, litter, vandalism)- clean it up and make it beautiful. She decided to become INVOLVED which is something my daughter's school tries to teach the children. This book reinforces that-- which makes it a wonderful choice for our family. I came to (my second home) to purchase this book for our home library, and I plan to find more books from this author and build a collection.

I think that Chris Soenpiet's illustrations are definitely awesome. He adds very good details and I like how he paints real things that are in our lifetime. But my favorite story is Something Beautiful.

It's about this little girl who is trying to find something that is beautiful in her neighborhood that is covered with graffiti. She finds out that she is the beautiful person and that it doesn't matter what you look like on the outside, but it matters on the inside and that her momma loves her anyway. For all children who think that they aren't beautiful that would love to read this book.

I like to use this book with my students to show them there is beauty in everything, even when it doesn't appear to be so. It's about finding the best in all situations -- very optimistic, growth mindset type book.

I came across this book at a reading exposition in an inner city school. This is the story of a little girl who comes from drab environs. Her neighborhood, her surroundings look very grim to her. But she talks to her teacher, who conveys a powerful lesson, which is that although it may be hidden, there is beauty all around us, even in school classrooms, crowded neighborhoods, and elsewhere.

this story teaches kids that they have the power to create their own beauty and bring it to their lives. the girl in this book walk around her house and sees some not very nice things, including some not so nice graffiti on a door, and the reader gets a sense of her unease. then she goes to school and her teacher teaches the class the word beautiful, which is described as something, when you have it, that makes your heart happy. so she goes around the neighbourhood asking people what is beautiful to them, and various responses are given. finally the little girl goes back to the graffiti and erases it, making a bit of beauty come into her own world. after that it ends on a sweet note with her mother. i think this a good book to read to a child to teach them that they have the power to make a positive change in the world, and that for every cloudy day there is an optimistic sun hiding unseen that is capable of showing itself to those who look for it.

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