

Anna is Adopted!

Written and Illustrated

by

AnnaGrace Johnson

Author's Purpose

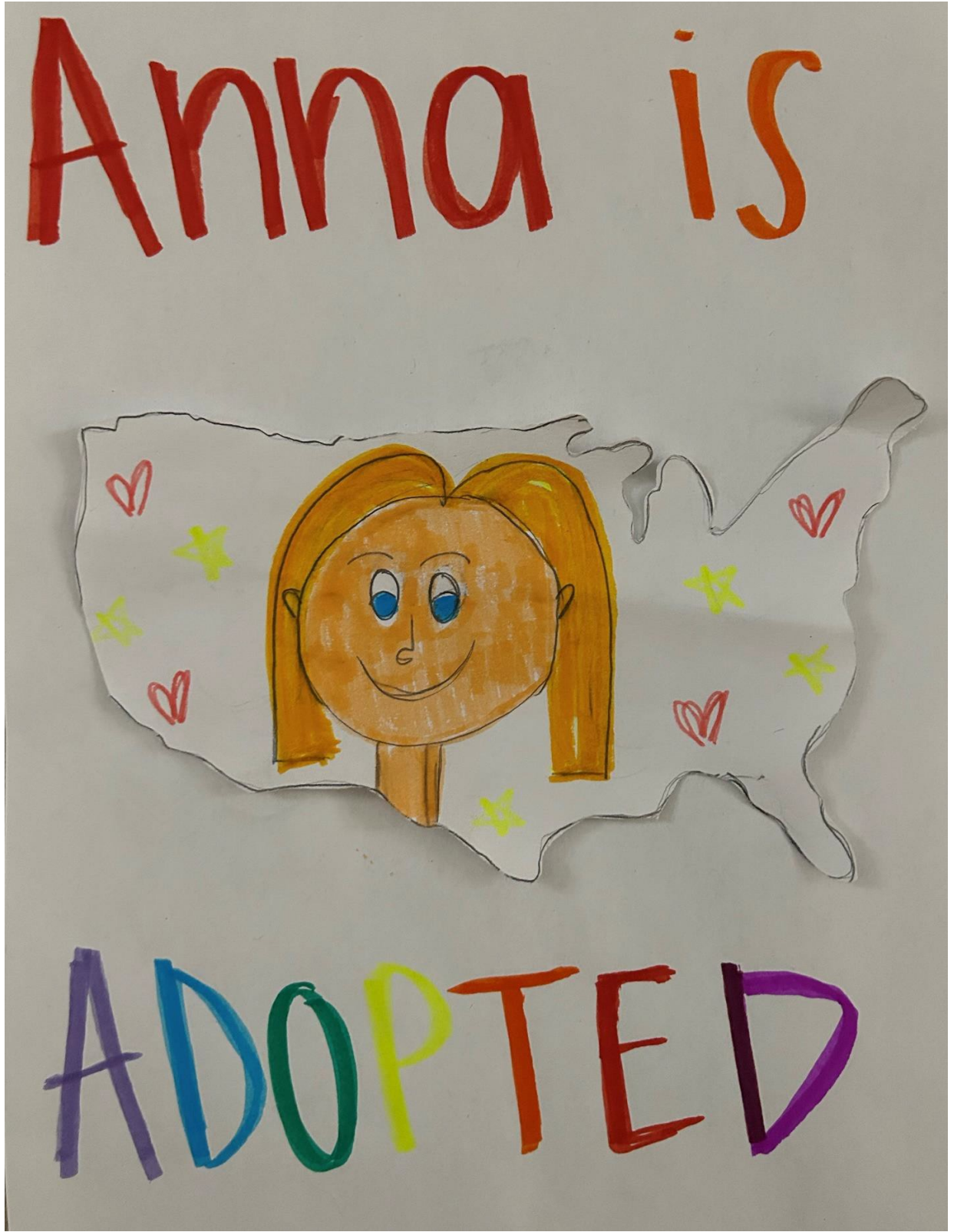
Anna is Adopted is a realistic fiction short story with actual scenarios from my childhood growing up. The purpose of this story is to bring awareness to the feelings of misplacement for all children. Based on personal experience, adoption is not recognized in a positive light each day at school no matter how parents manage the issues. This story is written for younger elementary age students but can be applied to students of all ages. Since the story is based on rich lived experience, it is a great resource for children, parents, and teachers to address problems such as anxiety, uncomfortable questions, and other oppositional behaviors. There were so many social and educational benefits in mind when writing this.

Anna is Adopted is a story for classroom use to promote inclusion of all family types and make children of diverse backgrounds feel more seen and understood. Educationally, this story helps students with reading comprehension and exposes them to different familial structures at an early age. The story is appropriate and aligned for ELA and Social Studies *Louisiana Believes* curriculum standards.

Dedication

This story is dedicated to my wonderful family. They have taken such a confusing situation to navigate and chose to make it a learning experience for our entire family. People usually make kids feel like their adoption is something to be ashamed of or that their biological parents simply did not want them. My parents took this narrative and made it positive from the first day, which helped me, and my siblings, fight these conflicting feelings from a young age that only children of adoption can understand.

Illustration



Anna is Adopted!

My name is Anna and I'm six years old. I'm just starting first grade this year and I am so excited! I can't wait to make so many different friends and learn everything there is to know about the world.

I am very special if you didn't know. My parents got to choose me! They searched all over the world until they found the perfect person. And that perfect person is me. I was born in California, and I hear that place is so cool. Hopefully one day I'll get to go there and meet my bio-parents. I don't really know what "bio" means but we call my other parents this whenever I want to talk about them. It makes it easier for me and my little brother.

Now that we know each other, today is my first day of first grade and we're going to have so much fun together learning how to write, read, and especially learn more about history. Since today is the first day, I know they're going to ask a fun fact about myself and I'm going to tell everyone in my class all about how I'm adopted and how cool it is.

It's time to tell everyone our fun facts. My friend Blaire said she was from Brazil! It's exciting to know that Mark said he looks just like his mom.! Jaden said that jumping jacks are the best! Tristen even said that he has a twin! I loved getting to know everyone, but the more fun facts I heard, the more I realized that my fun fact wasn't like everyone else's, mine was a little different. I started to get little

butterflies in my stomach, and I didn't know if I wanted to share my fun fact. But I remembered that my mom says that not being like everyone else makes you special. I'd like to say I'm pretty unique.

It's my turn. The little butterflies turned into big butterflies. Everyone is looking at me and expecting me to say I like apples or say I'm athletic, but I blurted it out, "I'M ADOPTED!"

My fun fact I guess wasn't as cool as everyone else's, or maybe I should have said something else because no one really clapped or cheered like we all did for all the other kids. Mrs. B. did but she doesn't count. I think Mrs. B. saw that no one knew what I was talking about, so she asked me to tell the class a little bit more about my fact. I can't believe everyone doesn't know about adoption like I do.

I told everyone in class just like Mom and Dad told me. My bio parents loved me very much in California, but they knew my adoptive Mom and Dad could love me and give me a better life, so I came to Louisiana to live the coolest life ever. My classmates wanted to know some of the cool things me and my adoptive parents have done since they're kind of superheroes for coming ALLLLL the way from Louisiana to California just for me!

After Mrs. B. explained a little more, I felt so good. I love family, and I'm so happy I could tell a fun fact about mine.

Because I was adopted, we flew on a plane before I could walk. Then, I visited three different states before I could talk. My classmates said they haven't even been on a plane yet. Good thing I can't remember that long plane ride, I feel like it would have been boring. My parents even have a whole book full of our adoption adventures, but the best part is that the adventure never ends! I can't wait to tell my Mom and Dad what happened on the first day of first grade.

So, I was born in a cool state and came to an awesome state. Here at my house in Louisiana, we live on a bayou. Louisiana has so many different animals and plants that I am always learning something new. Did you know there are alligators bigger than me? And cat tails too! Don't mess with the birds though, I learned that the hard way.

Well, I think that's all I have about my first day of first grade. I love my class, I made a million new friends, and I got to tell my whole class about my awesome family!

References

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Vocabulary

Adoption: Legally taking on parental roles of a child that is not their own.

Bayou: A marsh-like body of water in the south.

Bio-Parent: An additional name for birth parents.

Cat Tail: A tall marsh like plant that is red/brown with small flowers.


Plane: A powered flying vehicle.


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About the Author

AnnaGrace Johnson is a sophomore enrolled in Elementary Education with a concentration in Behavioral Science at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, in Lafayette, Louisiana. Her professional goal is to become a teacher with an inclusive classroom where students of all walks of life can be comfortable. She believes that learning about different familial structures at an early age is important when shaping the minds of children, this makes them more aware of the changing world around them. AnnaGrace hopes that readers learn something new from *Anna is Adopted!*