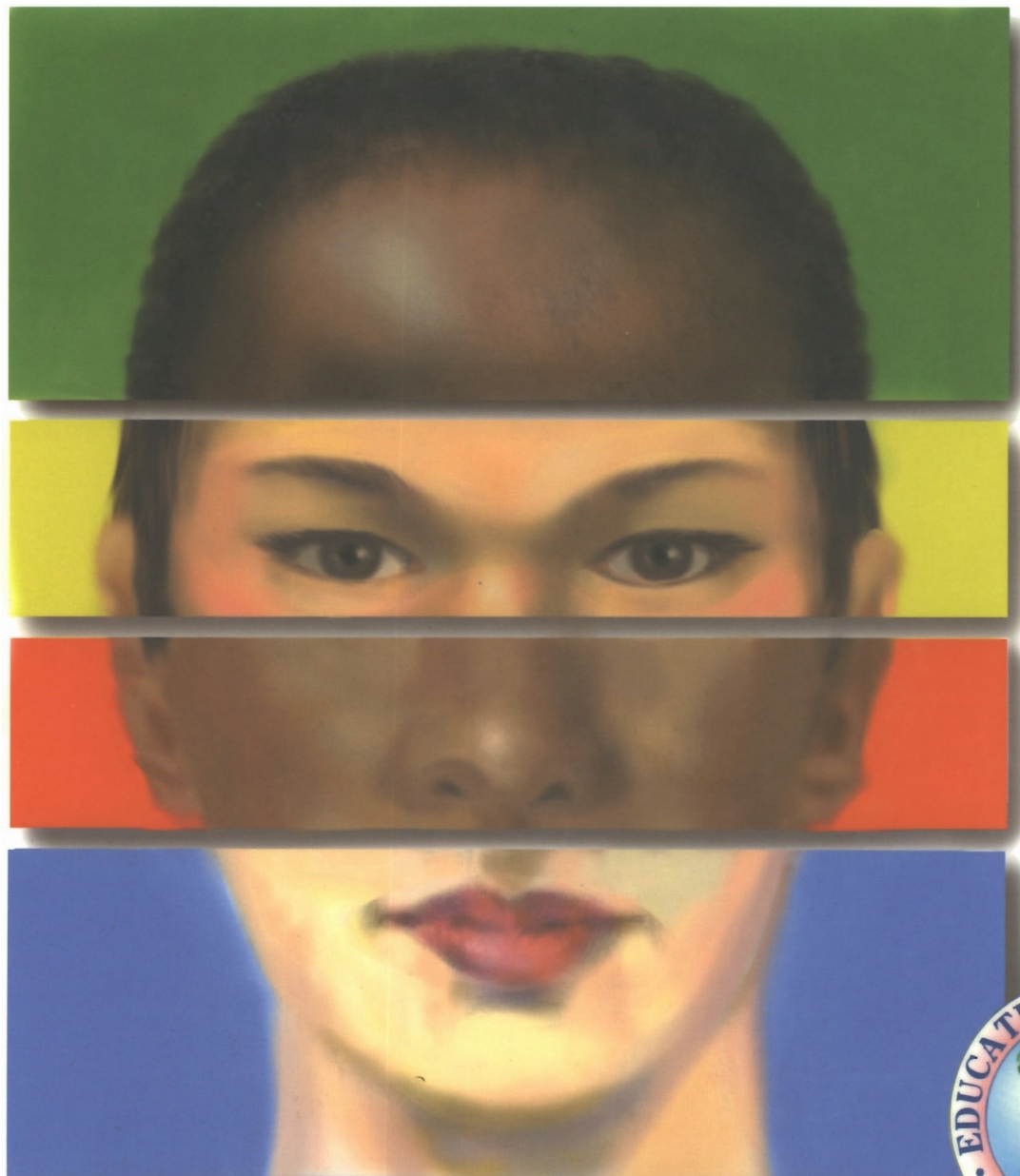


Why is Everybody Always Picking on Us?

Understanding the Roots of Prejudice



Dr. Terrence Webster-Doyle
Illustrated by Rod Cameron



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Weatherhill

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**A special thanks to
Jean Webster Doyle, my wife, for all your help
in making this book possible.**

**Thank you Christina Clay, my other mother,
who said “Just do it!”**

**Thank you to all of you
who contributed to making it a reality.**

You've Got To Be Carefully Taught

You've got to be taught to hate and fear,
You've got to be taught from year to year,
It's got to be drummed in your dear little ear,
You've got to be carefully taught.

You've got to be taught to be afraid
Of people whose eyes are oddly made
And people whose skin is a different shade,
You've got to be carefully taught.

You've got to be taught before it's too late
Before you are six or seven or eight
To hate all the people your relatives hate
You've got to be carefully taught . . .
You've got to be carefully taught.

—From *South Pacific*

© 1949 Lyrics by Oscar Hammerstein II

Music by Richard Rogers

Life Is Full of Challenges

You've already learned how to do many complicated things in your life— walk, talk, ride a bicycle, do math, use a computer. Now that you know how to do them, they don't seem difficult. Learning about prejudice is like that. Little by little, you can learn what it is, why it exists, and what you can do to prevent it.

Although some of the words and ideas you read in this book may be new to you, with practice and a little help from a caring adult, you'll be able to understand them all. All you need is a desire to learn. It's up to you.

So, as you read, bear this thought in mind:

We have created prejudice with uneducated thinking.

We can undo it with intelligent understanding.

Life is full of challenges. Each of us can meet and overcome them. This book will give you the confidence and skills to do that.

Are you interested in facing the challenges? Are you ready to be tested? Let's find out. And as you face these new challenges, remember that you are not alone. We can do it together.

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Introduction

What is prejudice?

Has anyone ever called you a name you hate?

What does this name make you feel when you hear it?

If you've been called a name you don't like by people who know
you don't like it . . . you've been a victim of bullying!

This is a result of prejudice.

WARNING

**Prejudice and bullying can cause your brain
to get you to act in ways that hurt people—
even without your knowing it!**

The only way we can deal with the truth is to meet it face-to-face.

Where did prejudice start?

How can it be stopped?

Keep reading and find out.