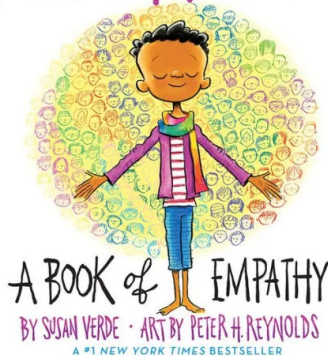


I AM HUMAN



I Am Human

By Susan Verde

Illustrated by Peter H. Reynolds

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GPOC Book Review 2022-2023

Emma Shaner

This year, my school is having a building-wide executive functioning skill theme each month. Our theme for September was FLEXIBILITY. While coming up with examples of being flexible, we talked about thinking of other people's thoughts, feelings, and ideas. I mentioned that a "fancy word" for thinking of others' feelings was called *empathy*. A 2nd grade student politely raised his hand and said "like I Am Human, a Book of Empathy. Right behind you!" And sure enough I turned around and displayed on my shelf was a trio of Susan's and Peter's books waiting to be shared with students.

I did not have a musical lesson prepared with this story. We simply read it together and silently signaled when we heard something that was true for us in the text. The book focuses not only on empathy for others, but empathy and compassion with ourselves. When we achieve, we make mistakes, when we are human.