

# Uniquely Yo



## **Dedication:**

To the Unseen and Forgotten  
You are loved, You are seen,  
You are unique.

## **Endorsements:**

Childhood is painful when children experience rejection. In this adorable story, Jane understands that her uniqueness is a special gift from God. Her sadness is replaced with happiness as she uses her talents to help others. A biblical truth that needs to be taught to all children!

—**Lee Ann Mancini**, award-winning Christian children's author.

This gentle story gives the powerful message that each child is gifted in his or her own way. Through patient dialog and tangible examples, a mother helps her daughter discover and embrace her uniqueness.

—**Crystal Bowman**, bestselling and award-winning children's author

# Uniquely Yo n



By Michelle S. Lazurek  
Illustrated by Alison Wright

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*Uniquely You*

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Plain Jane lived in a plain white house in a plain neighborhood. Getting ready for school, she put on her plain purple jumper and put barrettes in her plain auburn hair. When she got to school, she watched her friends, who all had talents and abilities that made them unique. She wished she had something where she was good too.

After school, Plain Jane leaped off the school bus and ran over to her mom, who was waiting for her at the bus stop. "I'm not good at anything," she declared.



“What do you mean?” Mom said as they walked home.

“Did something happen at school?”

“I got picked last in gym class.

The two captains picked everyone else but me to be on their team.”





“Oh, honey, I’m sorry That must have been hard for you.”  
Mom poured a glass of milk and gave the drink to Jane who had plopped herself into her favorite chair at the dining room table.  
Mom sat down next to her. “But there are lots of things you are good at.”

“Like what?” Jane asked, placing her head in her hands.

“You are sweet and kind.  
You always think about your friends before yourself  
and you always get A’s on your report card.”





“I didn’t mean those things, Mom. I meant real stuff, like stuff you can do. Becca’s good at gymnastics. Riley’s the best on his soccer team. What am I good at?” Jane sighed.

“Well, those are the gifts you see on the outside. But you have special gifts on the inside too.”

“Like gifts you get for Christmas?”

“Not quite.” Mom chuckled.

“Just like your friends have natural talents God has given them,  
when you ask Jesus to lead you in your life,  
He gives you special gifts that you use to help others.”





“What do these gifts look like?”

“These are gifts like praying for someone when they need help, telling your friends about Jesus or teaching the Bible in church.”

“So, when I listen to my teacher in Sunday school, they are using a gift God has given them?” Jane wondered aloud.

“Yes, gifts are more than things you unwrap.  
Gifts are only good if they are used.  
Remember when you got the dollhouse you wanted last Christmas?  
You spent hours playing with it.  
You had so much fun! Gifts make our lives better.  
That’s what makes you uniquely you.”





Jane looked out the dining room window. “Look, Mom, it’s snowing!”  
She ran to the window and pressed her nose to the glass.  
She watched as each snowflake gently fell from the sky.

Mom opened the door and scooped up some snow into a coffee mug.  
Shutting the door behind her, she gave the mug to Jane.

“Look at the snowflakes.” Jane placed her finger in the cup. A couple of snowflakes stuck to her finger. “Are they the same?” Mom asked.

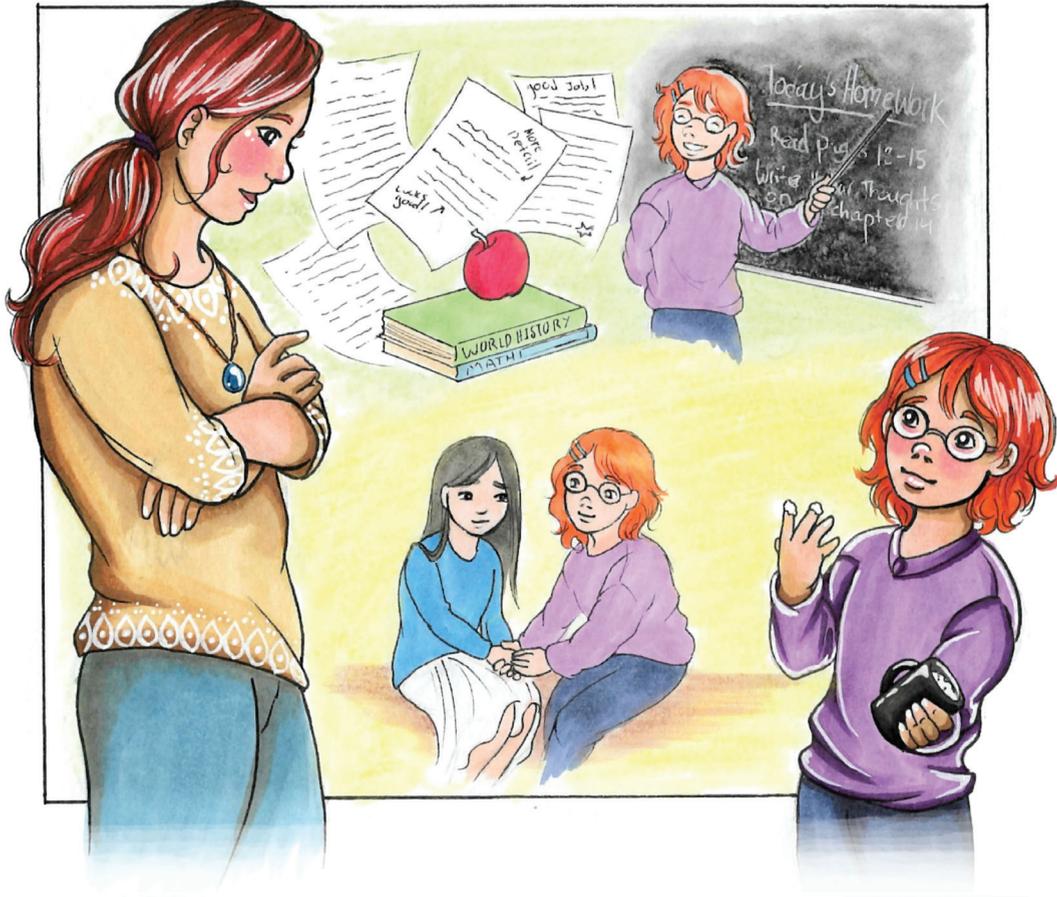
“No, each one is different.”

Jane played with the snowflakes on her finger, watching them melt away.

“Just like snowflakes, we are all different.  
God creates all unique and none of us is the same.”



“So, what do you think are my gifts?” Jane wondered.



“Well, you love to play teacher when you are playing at recess, right?”

“Yeah, I like to give homework and then correct it.”

“Teaching is a special gift from God,” Mom continued.

“Your friends also ask you for advice, right?”

“Yes, they say I always help them figure out the right thing to do.” Jane said.

“Wisdom is a gift from God, too.”

“What are your gifts, Mommy?” Jane asked.



“Well, I love to host Bible study at our house. That’s the gift of hospitality. When I am in a situation, I think of Bible verses that relate to my situation. That’s the gift of knowledge.”

“It’s good to think about the ways God has made me unique.” Jane exclaimed.  
“Yes, the gifts God has given me make me special.”





The next day at school, Jane leaped off the bus and right into Mommy's arms for a big hug. "I had a great day at school! I got picked last again at gym, but this time I didn't feel sad, because my friend Liz asked me for my advice again. She was feeling bad her friend Amy was not talking to her. I didn't have to think about the answer. I told her she should treat her the same way she would want to be treated. That was the Bible verse we learned at church on Sunday."

“That’s great, honey. Isn’t it nice to know God loves you so much He made you with gifts made especially for you?” Mom asked.





“Yeah, I love that He made me uniquely me.”

## About the Author



MICHELLE S. LAZUREK is an award-winning author, speaker, pastor's wife and mother. Winner of the Golden Scroll Children's Book of the Year, the Enduring Light Silver Medal and the Maxwell Award, she is a member of the Christian Author's Network and the Advanced Writers and Speakers Association. She is also an associate literary agent with Wordwise Media Services. For more information, please visit her website at [michellelazurek.com](http://michellelazurek.com).

## About the Illustrator



ALISON H. WRIGHT is a two times published children's book illustrator and an undergraduate at Clarion University of Pennsylvania. She is majoring in Communications but continues to exercise her lifelong love of the arts through painting and illustration.