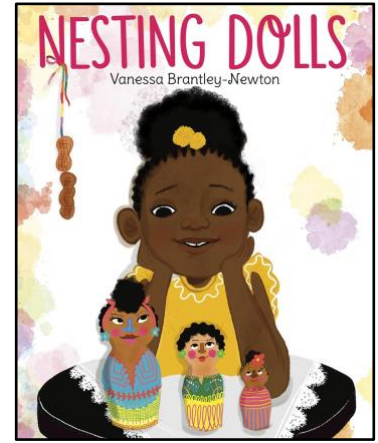


***Nesting Dolls***  
by Vanessa Brantley-Newton



**Activity Guide Created by:**  
Zoey Athy-Miller

### **Book Summary**

Anyiaka admires her beautiful Gullah Geechee family, but feels out of place during a visit to her grandparents. She wants to be beautiful, a great listener, and a talented artist. When Anyiaka visits her grandparents' house she realizes she sticks out like a sore thumb in her family. She can't seem to do anything right, when she walks into her grandma's art studio she sees just how different she is from the rest of her family.

### **Read Aloud Questions**

Who do you want to be like?  
What is something you're good at cooking?  
Have you ever felt like you don't fit in?  
What trait do you have from your mom or dad?  
What did Anyiaka's grandma do to help her realize she fits in?  
What does your family mean to you?

### **Book Activity**

**Materials:**

nesting dolls handout, coloring supplies (colored pencils, crayons, markers, etc.), scissors, stapler or paper fastener

## Directions:

1. After reading the book *Nesting Dolls* aloud, ask listeners: Who is someone that's special to you? What is something beautiful about them?
2. Handout the number of nesting dolls (see handout at the end of this guide) each student needs to match the number of family members (such as siblings, parents, etc.).
3. Next, have them write one thing that is beautiful about each person on each of the dolls.
4. Ask them to color and/or decorate each doll they have chosen to represent their family members.
5. Ask students to cut out their dolls.
6. For the final step, have them line the nesting dolls up from biggest to smallest. Use a hole punch at the bottom of each doll and insert a paper fastener. This will allow the nesting dolls to be fanned out. The dolls could also be stapled at the bottom.
7. Ask students to share their dolls with a partner and what beautiful things they wrote about each member.



## Additional Resources

- [Literacy Central Nesting Dolls](#)
- [9 Self-Confidence Building Activities](#)
- [Nesting Dolls](#)

## Meet the Author



**Zoey Athy-Miller** is a 7th grader at Augusta Middle School. She loves dogs big and small. She has a creative side and is currently writing a book with a friend. She has two sisters and a brother. Zoey is a very funny person and can make a joke about anything she wants. Her favorite subjects are science and math. She loves playing volleyball and soccer.

