



Lesson 11

## Children of the Rainbow

C. J. Heck

**The Poet :** C. J. Heck is a native of Ohio. She is the author of three children's books, a collection of short stories and a book of poetry.



I talked to Grammy yesterday  
about a girl I know.  
Her skin's a different color  
but I like her, even though

the other children tease her  
and it makes her run away  
because she looks so different  
and they never let her play.

I think she looks just beautiful !  
Her skin is chocolate brown.  
She's the nicest girl I've ever met  
and it's sad to see her frown.



Grammy held me on her lap  
and told me she was proud.  
She said that's what's important  
and then my gram allowed

that children are life's rainbow,  
black and yellow, red and white,  
but the colors aren't what matter,  
it's what's down deep inside.

I asked her if that's what it means  
when we say we're colorblind.  
She smiled and said it should mean that  
in all hearts and in all minds.

### Word Notes :

- grammy/gram : grandmother (informal)  
chocolate brown : dark brown colour  
lap : the flat area between waist and knees of one who is sitting  
life's rainbow : the most beautiful and pleasant things of one's life which are full of hope  
colorblind : unable to distinguish certain colours ; not influenced by racial prejudice

**Summary :** The poem speaks for racial harmony. It gives us the message of unity among different races. In this poem the poet, a young girl, relates the story of a dark-skinned girl, who was ill-treated by other children, to her grandmother. She speaks of the traumatic treatment that the dark-skinned girl gets in her school. The poet thinks that the girl with her chocolate brown skin is the nicest girl she has ever met. She feels sad when she sees the girl frown. Then the grandmother feels very proud of her granddaughter's wise conscience and conveys the message that the colour of one's skin does not matter. The inner beauty of a person is more important than the colour of the skin and all the children irrespective of the colour of their skin are the most beautiful gifts of one's life. The poem reflects the need to show love and compassion to others and to treat all equally. The racial prejudice should not influence anyone to judge a person.

Answer the following questions.

- i) Who is the poet of the poem 'Children of the Rainbow' ?
- ii) About whom is the poet talking to her grandmother ?
- iii) Why do the other children tease the girl ?
- iv) What does the grandmother say about the children ?
- v) "I think ----- her frown." What does the poet say in these lines ?
- vi) Write rhyming words from the poem.

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