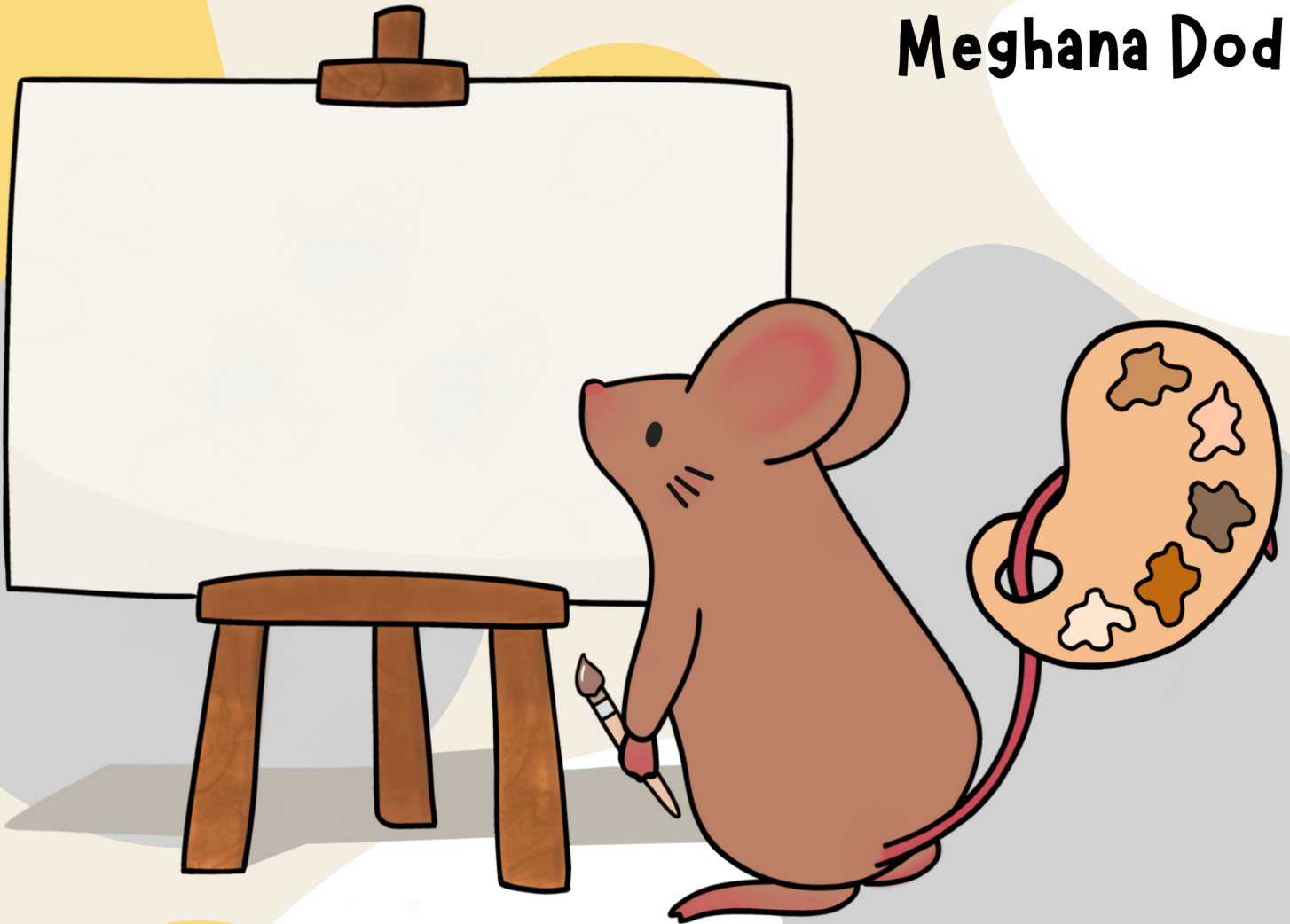


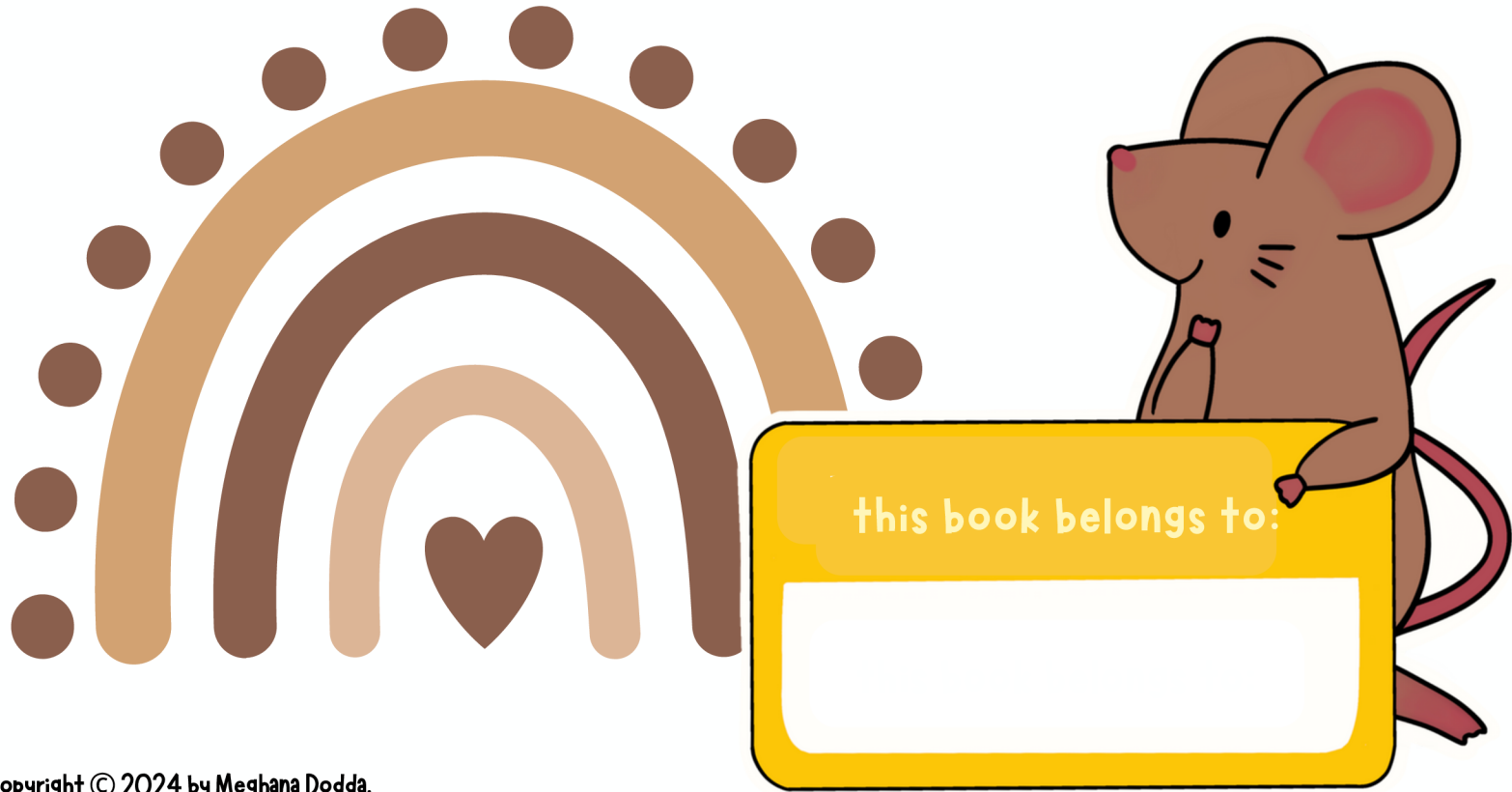
there is color everywhere

Meghana Dodda







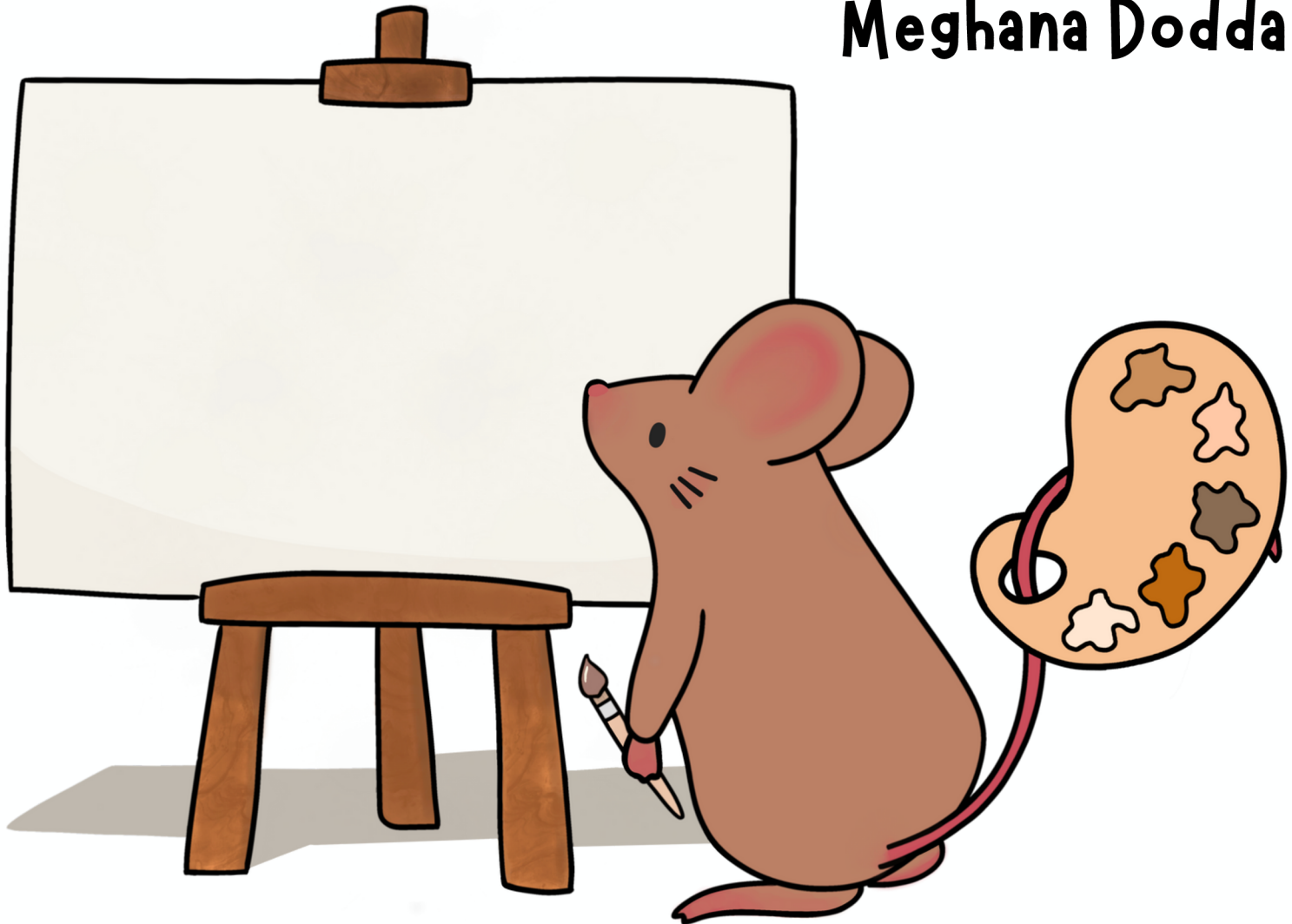


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there is color everywhere

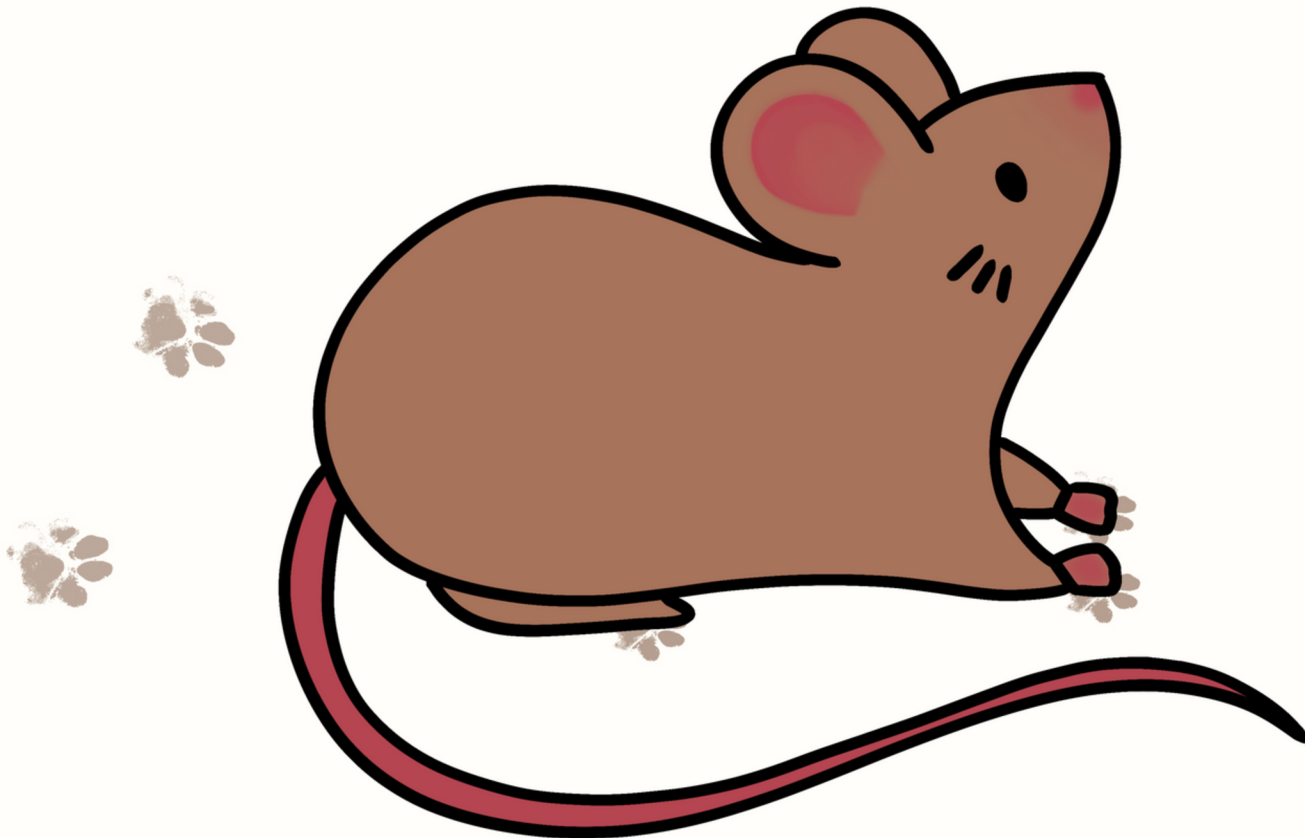
Meghana Dodda



**Dedicated to my dearest Cho,
for nurturing and encouraging
all my silly little passions,
from start to finish.**



**Everyone, everywhere,
come meet Recy (ree-see)!**





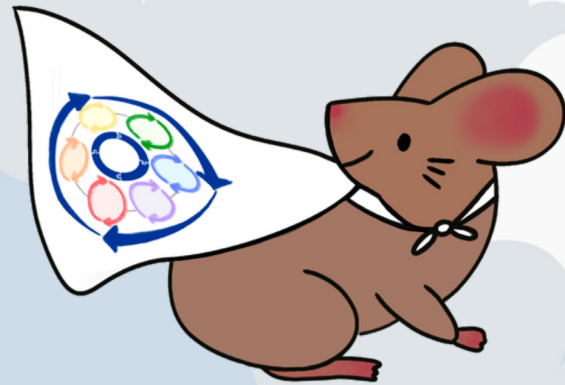
She's in school taking classes
that do not come easy!



She juggles all her passions with knowledge as her tool,
trust me when I tell you, Reci's pretty cool!



But no matter how busy
little Reci may seem,
fighting against racism is
her biggest dream.



RACISM



Now you might ask,
what does racism mean?

It's when people of color
are not always seen.



Let's think of all the
different cultures we know...



and all the different
skin tones in the places we go.



1824

Throughout history, people have been treated unkindly because of their race, a label assumed from the color of their face.



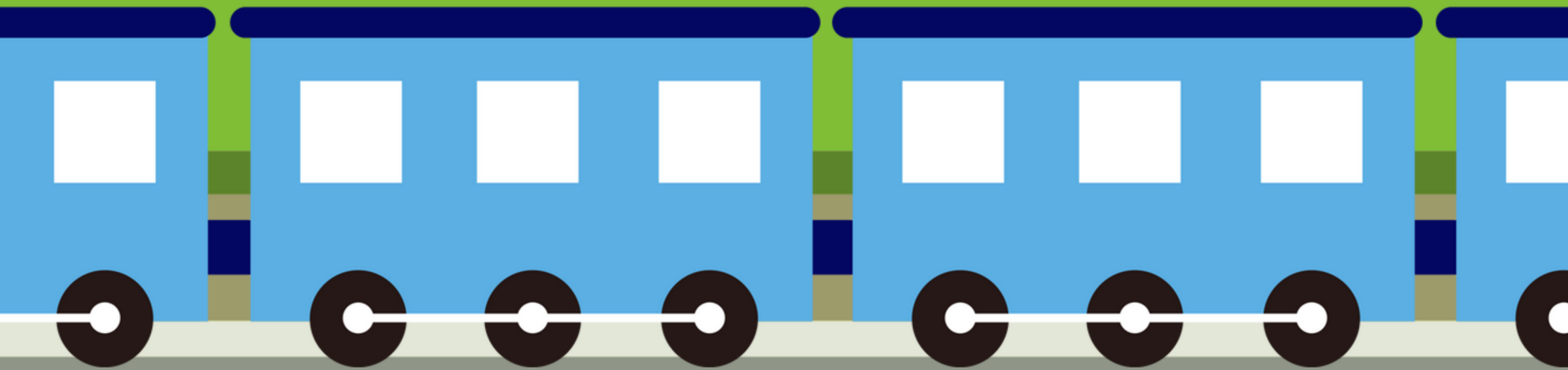
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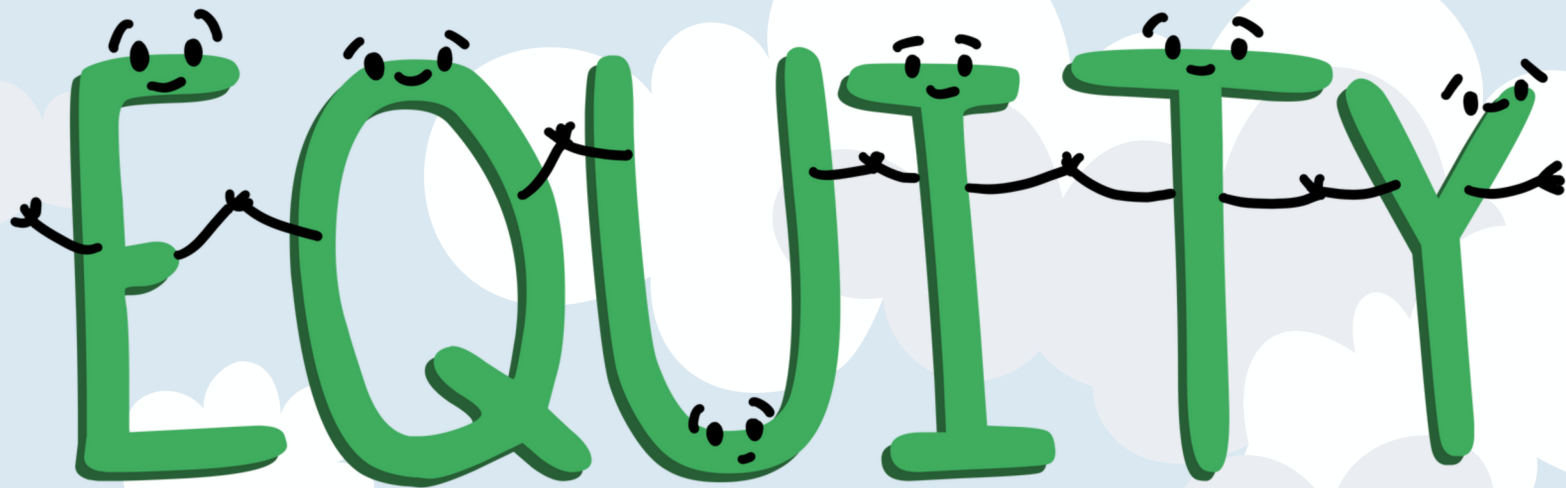


BLACK LIVES MATTER



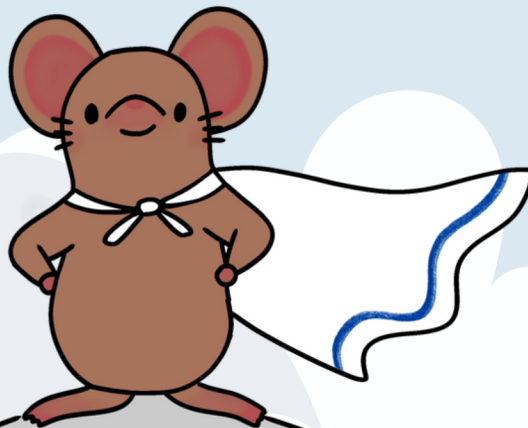
Racism comes from violence in our past,
but that doesn't mean we should let it last.



The word "EQUITY" is written in large, green, rounded letters. Each letter has a simple face with two dots for eyes and a small smile. The letters are connected by thin black lines, giving them the appearance of holding hands or standing together. The background consists of soft, white, fluffy clouds against a light blue sky.

EQUITY

**So, Reci does her best to push for an equitable society,
where making things fair is the priority.**

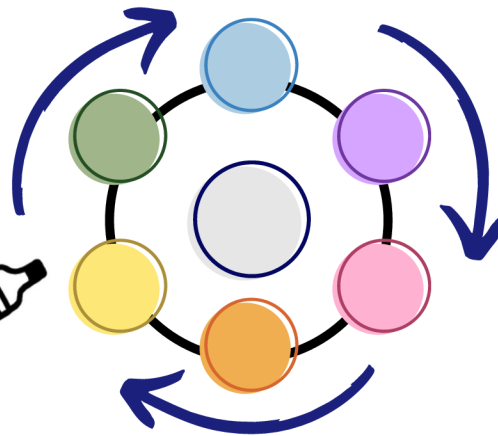


Equity isn't about making everyone the same, it's about making sure everyone gets the best chance at their game.



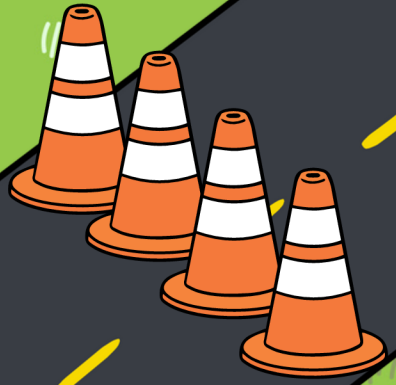
**Reci can teach us how to do this by being anti-racist.
She'll help us learn together, from the basics.**

Racial Equity Consciousness Institute



Breaking down racism starts from correcting your own mind, if you ever catch yourself being accidentally unkind.

Racism Blvd.



STOP

Equity Ave.

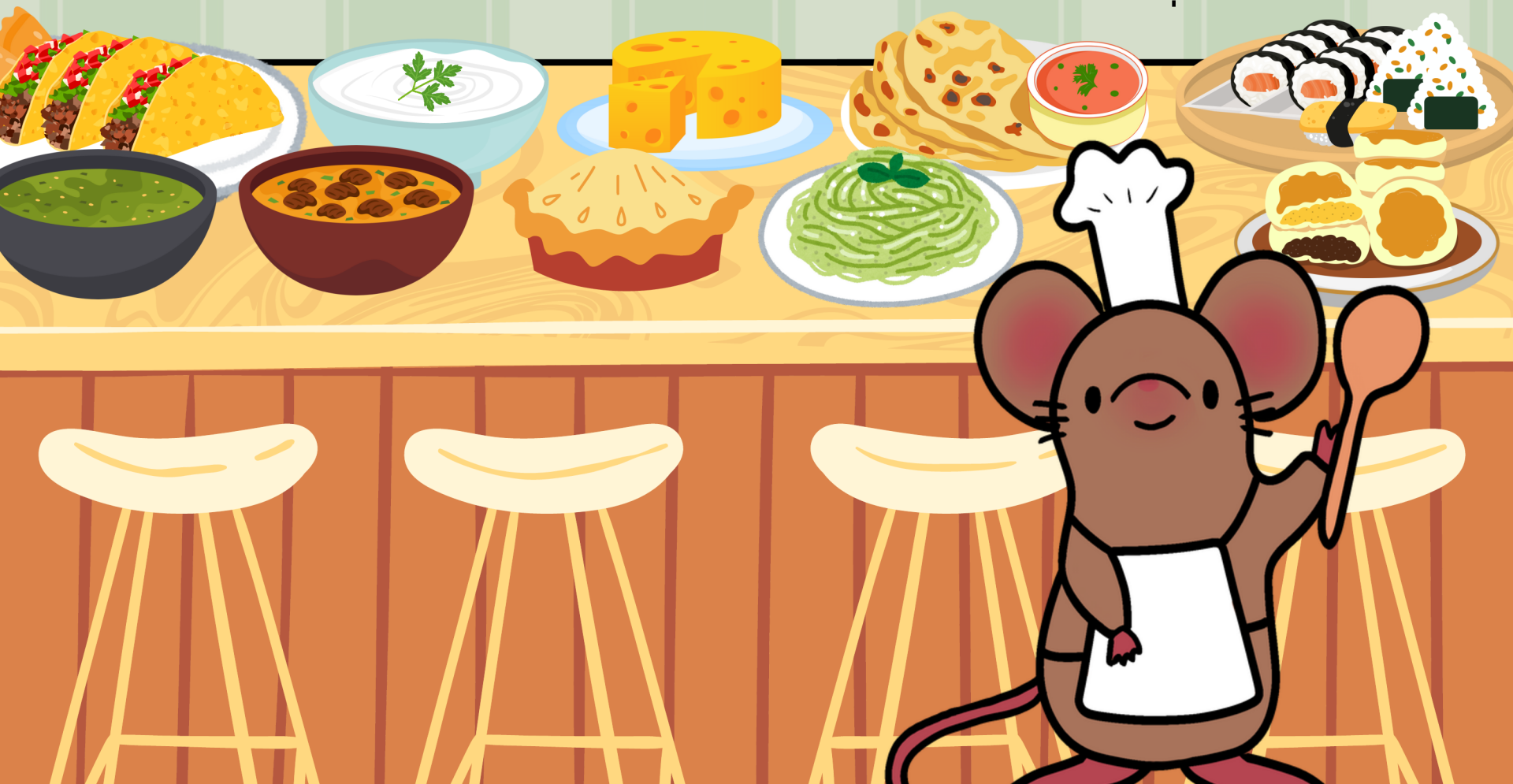


**Being anti-racist means being extra strong,
and brave enough to reflect on right versus wrong.**



Being anti-racist isn't just ignoring color.

Instead, let's celebrate diversity that makes our world fuller.



With meaningful conversations, let's all intervene,
even if we're speaking out through a screen.

reci, what's racism?

racism is when...

...





**To make our world a better and kinder place,
we should always work to change both hearts and space.**



Reci has found color here,
and found color there.



**We find color where we care,
until there is color everywhere.**

Author's Note

There is one question I've been asked more often than any other in the process of writing this book.

Why is Recy a rat?

My first answer is quite simple. I love rats. From Remy of Ratatouille to Rizzo of The Muppet Show, my favorite characters in mainstream media have always been rats, so it only made sense to bring one to life on the pages of my book. However, everything in my work is done with intention, and Recy is no different. I chose Recy to exemplify how human dispositions are shaped and influenced by preconceived notions. As seemingly trivial as it might initially appear, the modern representation of rats is an example of how we are pushed by society to think in a certain way. It is challenging to change our minds when we have spent our entire lives with a certain idea, but in many cases, being open to new thoughts is key to driving change. Recy helps others advance their attitudes about race and color, but she also transforms perspectives about her own identity in the process, challenging the inherited dispositions we all hold.

As we traverse the continuous journey of educating ourselves about systemic racism, we must recognize its profound impact on communities across the world, and learn how to create spaces where everyone can engage in conversation. I hope this book can serve as a resource to nurture our youngest generation, and I am very grateful for your support in teaching our children what an equitable world looks like.

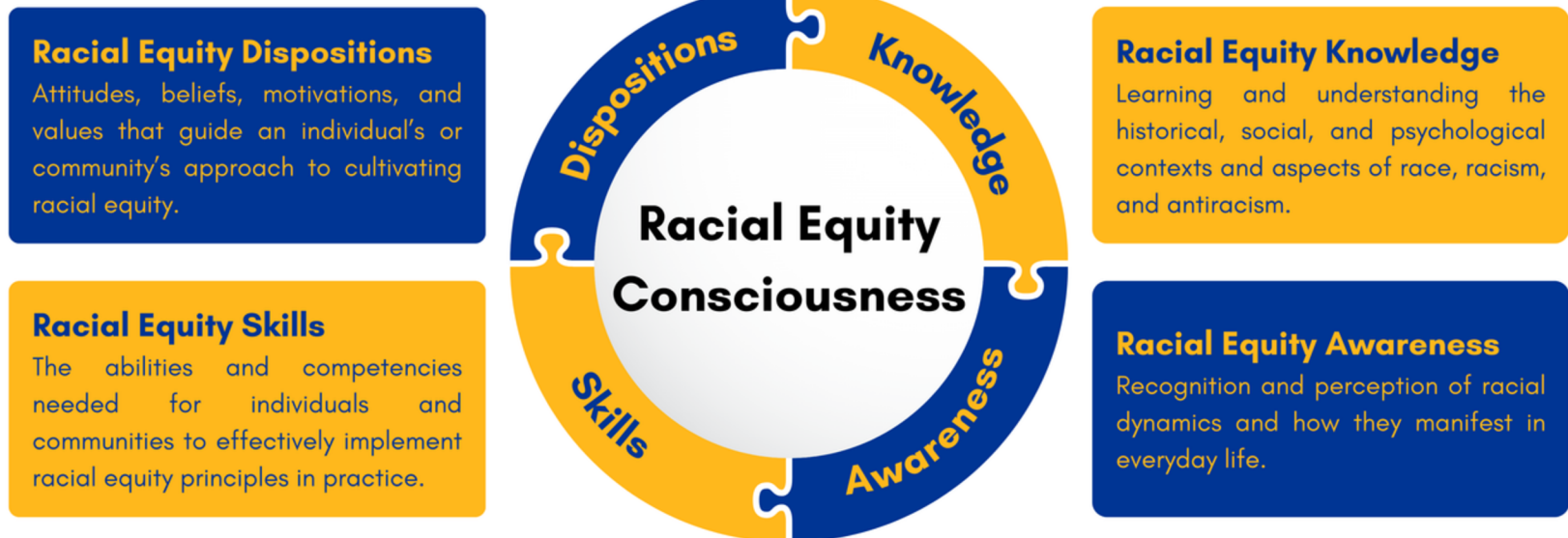
Finally, I would like to acknowledge that this book was created with the support of many people and communities who are dear to me. [Even after writing pages upon pages of rhyming prose, I cannot find the words to fully encompass my gratitude for the wonderful humans around me who have shaped me and my journey.

Specifically, I would like to thank Dean Nicola Foote, for her continual kindness, Ron Idoko, whose passion has always inspired my growth, Vidya Surti, for being the most patient editor and friend, and my family, both at home and in the FHC. Change may begin from the individual, but it is only catalyzed when we are together, from the smallest of rats to the most thoughtful of people.

**With love,
Meghana**

On the following pages, you'll find a few images from the Racial Equity Consciousness Institute (RECI) that can help deepen your understanding of racial equity.

If you ever want to discuss further, have questions, or are interested in getting involved, please reach out to us! Ron Idoko, Associate Director of the Center on Race and Social Problems, established the Racial Equity Consciousness Institute in 2021 with the mission of equipping individuals and communities with the tools to actively dismantle racism and promote racial equity. RECI provides a lasting framework that educates individuals on the complexities of racism while fostering self-reflection and community contributions to inspire antiracist actions and build inclusive, equitable communities.





Developing Racial Equity Consciousness

Recognizing Racial Oppression and Advancing Racial Liberation:

Recognizing systems, histories, and impacts of racial inequity and advancing ourselves and social systems to address racial inequity

Examining Racial Identities and Addressing Racial Biases:

Examining the meaning and significance of racial identity groups and addressing preconceived ideas and biases related to them

Embracing Racial Diversity and Growing Racial Literacy:

Embracing the inclusion of all racial identity groups and growing the ability to maintain healthy cross-racial relationships

Building Racial Empathy and Enhancing Racial Stamina:

Building compassionate connections across racial differences and enhancing capacity to engage in matters of racial oppression

Acknowledging Racial Trauma and Fostering Racial Healing:

Acknowledging the emotional, mental, and physical impacts of racial oppression and fostering processes that restore wholeness

Gauging Racial Inequities and Championing Racial Justice:

Gauging settings where racial identity predicts disparate societal outcomes and championing fair treatment for all racial groups

"There must exist a paradigm, a practical model for social change that includes an understanding of ways to transform consciousness that are linked to efforts to transform structures." – bell hooks





**There are friends of many races that Reci knows,
and she loves them all equally down to her toes.**

**So hurry, scurry, and come take a look,
learn how to fight racism in this book!**

Racial Equity Consciousness Institute

