

The World of GeNie Pearl: A Lesson on Realness

What is your superpower? Everyone has a superpower! Meet GeNie Pearl, an 11-year old who loves her family, friends, and school. GeNie's superpower is reading the room, which is the skill of picking up on cultural and social cues and then knowing what is appropriate to say or to do in the moment. This special skill gives GeNie Pearl the power to validate and affirm the cultural and linguistic behaviors of everyone.

In "[The World of GeNie Pearl: A Lesson on Realness](#)," the school dance team's tryouts are at risk of being ruined due to a big cultural misunderstanding between the dance team coach and the students. Can GeNie Pearl save the dance team's tryouts and help everyone understand the importance of validating and affirming 'realness'?

Based on the Validating, Affirming, Building, and Bridging or VABB (trademark here) framework, (Hollie, 2018), GeNie Pearl's World is a series of lessons about the sixteen most commonly misunderstood cultural and linguistic behaviors in school. When educators misunderstand who their students are culturally and linguistically, the students do not feel validated and affirmed and their educational experience can be negatively affected. This series is intended to teach students and adults alike through the eyes of a 5th grade student that there is power in validation and affirmation! For more information, check out www.culturallyresponsive.org.



Meet the Author, Dr.G

Dr. GeNita Williams (Dr. G) has been an educator for over 24 years. Today, Dr. G is a Program Specialist & Lead CLR Practitioner with *The Center for Culturally Responsive Teaching and Learning*, Los Angeles, CA. Dr. G believes the goal of every educator should be to ensure students are learning about themselves in an environment that validates and affirms who they are culturally and linguistically. Dr. G is passionate about the work of validating and affirming the cultural behaviors of students and sought to create a book series for children that would highlight the sixteen most commonly misunderstood cultural and linguistic behaviors in school. From there, "The World of GeNie Pearl" was born.