

Reflection on Discrimination
Kari Pratt

In the book “Why are all the Black Kids Sitting Together in the Cafeteria” by Beverly Daniel Tatum, I was honestly uncomfortable at times with some of the things she stated about racism and discrimination, however, I think it is information that needs to be highlighted. My background is not diverse. I come from a middle-income family from a small rural town in Minnesota. Our town was all lower- to middle-income white families, many of which had lived in the town for many generations. If asked before I read this book if I felt like I discriminated against other groups, I would have said no. Upon completion of this book, I realized that society and the media cause us to be discriminatory. The media shows us white models for their advertisements, children’s toys, until recently, have had white skin, and the “bad guy” on TV always seems to be a black male.

Upon this realization, one has to review what one truly believes and thinks in different situations. I think we are all guilty of having some racially discriminating thoughts and attitudes at times. The important thing is that we move past that. I believe that open dialog is the key to educating more Americans about these trends and helping to stop them in the future. As Tatum writes, we need to educate our children about different races, we need to not give them gender specific rolls, and we need to be role models for them.

I honestly believe that the first step is acknowledging our tendencies and beliefs. The next step is to figure out how to act on them. This is the hardest part, and I think it can be accomplished through little things in our daily lives. As educators, we need to be role models for our students and encourage open dialog about these topics.