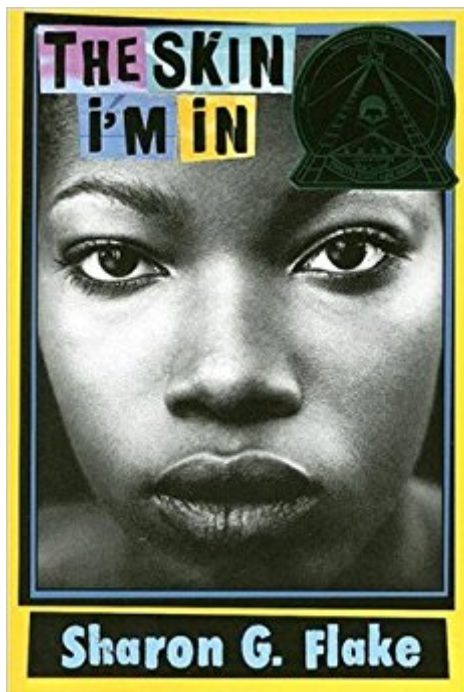


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# The Skin I'm In



## Synopsis

Maleeka suffers every day from the taunts of the other kids in her class. If they're not getting at her about her homemade clothes or her good grades, it's about her dark, black skin. When a new teacher, whose face is blotched with a startling white patch, starts at their school, Maleeka can see there is bound to be trouble for her too. But the new teacher's attitude surprises Maleeka. Miss Saunders loves the skin she's in. Can Maleeka learn to do the same?

## Book Information

Age Range: 12 and up

Lexile Measure: 670L (What's this?)

Paperback: 176 pages

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Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars 358 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #8,121 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #20 in [Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Self Esteem & Reliance](#) #21 in [Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Multicultural Stories > African-American](#) #30 in [Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Girls & Women](#)

## Customer Reviews

Grade 6-8-Seventh-grader Maleeka Madison is miserable when a new teacher comes to her depressed inner-city school. Miss Saunders evidently is rich, self-assured in spite of the white birthmark across her black skin, and prone to getting into kids' faces about both their behavior and their academic potential. Black and bright, Maleeka is so swamped by her immediate problems that Miss Saunders's attentions nearly capsize her stability. The girl's mother has just emerged from a two-year period of intense mourning for her dead husband, during which time her daughter has provided her with physical and moral support with no adult assistance. At school, Maleeka endures mean-spirited teasing about the darkness of her skin and her unstylish clothing. She seeks solace in writing an extended creative piece, at Miss Saunders's instigation, and also in the company of a powerful clique of nasty girls. Told in Maleeka's voice, this first novel bristles with attitude that is

both genuine and alarming. The young teen understands too well that her brains aren't as valuable as the social standing that she doesn't have. In the end, she is able to respond positively to Miss Saunders; she also becomes socially anointed through the affections of the most popular boy in the school. This message rings true in spite of the fact that Maleeka's salvation isn't exactly politically correct. Young teens will appreciate Flake's authenticity and perhaps realize how to learn from Maleeka's struggle for security and self-assurance. Francisca Goldsmith, Berkeley Public Library, CA Copyright 1998 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Sharon G. Flake won the Coretta Scott King/John Steptoe New Talent Award for her first novel *The Skin I'm In* and is a two-time Coretta Scott King Author Honor Book winner. Beloved by children and adults, critics and booksellers, librarians and teachers, she is the author of a middle-grade novel and five books for young adults that have sold more than half a million copies. The mother of a college-age daughter, Flake writes full-time from her home in Pittsburgh. To learn more about Ms. Flake, please visit her at [www.sharongflake.com](http://www.sharongflake.com).

I teach 6th grade at an At Risk school. The majority of my students hate to read and struggle with finding books that engage them. I've only read the first chapter of this book to each of my reading classes and they are SO into it! I'm very pleased and can't wait to finish it with them! I plan to read them more books by this author! :)

I read this book in elementary school and I remember relating a lot to the main character since I am a dark skin African American woman. When I was growing up dark skin was considered ugly and unwanted. Later I learned to appreciate my skin tone and I believe this book helped me start that journey. I recently bought this book for a younger brother of mine who is conflicted about his skin tone. I hope that it will help him as well.

Good read!

Meh red tag ign it I lol hi what am I doing here lol can somebody read this you PLEZ?

Had a little tore in the back of the book but looks pretty awesome. Can't wait to enjoy it

Every teenager should read!!!

My seventh grade girls are loving reading this book. Two girls who are both reluctant readers are actually looking forward to reading it. One girl who was reading *Because of Winn-Dixie* (another great book), asked if she could read one chapter of *Winn-Dixie* and then read *Skin I'm In* together with her classmate (who is reading it on an Ipad in the kindle app).

This is a really good book. I read it with my fifth graders during Black History Month. It is a good book that everyone can learn from.

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