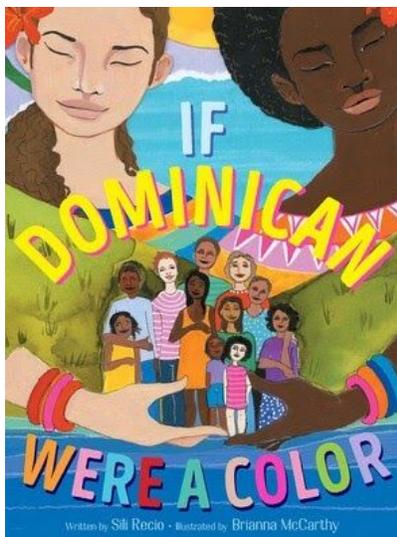




*If Dominican Were a Color* by Sili Recio  
*Si Quisqueya fuera un Color*



Sili Recio has been calling herself a writer since she won a trophy in a poetry contest in the sixth grade. She is an Afro-Dominican storyteller, disruptor, and Mami. Sili earned a bachelor's degree in psychology from Rollins College. She entered the world of social media via her blog in 2010, and has never looked back. Sili lives in Florida with her daughter.



The colors of Hispaniola burst into life in this striking, evocative debut picture book that celebrates the joy of being Dominican. The palette of the Dominican Republic is exuberant and unlimited. *Maiz* comes up *amarillo*, the blue-black of dreams washes over sandy shores, and people's skin can be the shade of cinnamon in cocoa or of mahogany. This exuberantly colorful, softly rhyming picture book is a gentle reminder that a nation's hues are as wide as nature itself.

**RRS connection to TEKS: Please refer to TEKS for English Language Arts and Reading:**

- *Comprehension skills*
- *Response skills*
- *Author's purpose and craft*
- *Composition I: Writing*
- *Composition II: Genres*
- *Inquiry and research*

**Vocabulary:**

- Dominican Republic
- Intergenerational love
- Self love / positive self image
- Asset-based thinking
- Caribbean
- Colorful
- Bilingualism
- Haiti
- Hair
- Culture
- Metaphor
- Community cultural wealth
- Portrait
- Hispanic / Black joy
- Seasons

**Pre-reading engagement:**

- What does an author do? Think about the title of the book? What does it tell us about the book?
- What do you think the book will be about? Who does this book remind you of?
- What does an illustrator do?
- Look at the artwork. What do you see? How does the artwork make you feel?
- This book is in English and Spanish. Does your family speak English and Spanish?
- Read the author and illustrator's biographies together. What did you learn about them?
- Ask your librarian for their suggestions on other Latinx children's books written in English and Spanish.
- Locate the Dominican Republic and do more research about this country!

**While/post reading engagement:**

- How would you describe the people in these illustrations? What details about the illustrations make you think that?
- Mimic the pose/ the facial expressions / motions that the people in the illustrations are making!
- What 5 colors come to mind when you think about the place you are from? Now draw a picture of that place using those colors.
- Complete the sentence! "If (insert name of your hometown) were a color, it would be \_\_\_\_\_!"

- Why would you choose this color?
- Make or photograph a portrait of yourself.
- Create a list of all the ways that the Dominican Republic is similar to and/or different from your hometown.
- Draw a picture of how you would spend the day if you were to visit the Dominican Republic.
- What is your favorite color? Have a class discussion about what makes that color so special to you? What does this color remind you of?
- Think about what makes you and your culture beautiful. Create a song, poem, or drawing that celebrates what makes you YOU.
- You will be able to share your drawings with Sili Recio! Don't forget to think about a question you would like to ask Sili.

**Useful links:**

- Author/publisher website: <https://silirecio.com/>
- Good Morning America interview w/ Sili Recio: <https://abcnews.go.com/GMA/GMA3/video/celebrating-intersection-hispanic-black-culture-73716214?fbclid=IwAR3928BwTX023A3H4kBvU15yWxYtkrRMcqEv91NsDftjgFPSUIZs-yxmlDc>
- Illustrator website: <https://www.blckprism.com/black-artist/brianna-mccarthy>
- Article on Brianna McCarthy: <https://studybreaks.com/thoughts/brianna-mccarthy/>
- Kirkus Review: <https://www.kirkusreviews.com/book-reviews/sili-recio/if-dominican-were-color/>
- Republica Dominicana: <https://www.godominicanrepublic.com/es/2019/07/29/destinos/10-cosas-que-quizas-no-sabian-de-republica-dominicana/>