



Three Orange Dots

三個橘色的點

Author: Hsiao-chi Chang **Illustrator:** Hsiao-chi Chang **Publisher:** Commonwealth Education

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Volume: The SEL picture book series will continue next year, with 2-3 books planned for publication.

BFT2.0 Translator: Michelle Kuo

*I forget when it began, but three orange dots started to follow me.
I thought that I could sleep them off and that they'd go away when I woke up.
But the three orange dots were still there.
I hid myself. Will they still be able to find me?
Ah! What if I put on a hat?*

Three orange dots follow a child, unwanted and bothersome, causing feelings of anxiety. This simple story helps young readers develop self-awareness, understand their emotions, and find ways to soothe themselves. Part of a social and emotional learning picture book series, it seeks to nurture and strengthen each individual's inner world. Through gentle dialogue, readers are encouraged to better understand themselves and learn how to treat both themselves and others with kindness.



Hsiao-chi Chang

Hsiao-chi Chang graduated from the Department of Fine Arts at National Kaohsiung Normal University and the Academy of Art University in the United States, majoring in children's book illustration. Her works were selected for the Bologna Illustrators Exhibition in 2020 and 2021, and she has received recognition from the 3x3 Illustration Awards in the United States. Recently, she published the picture books *Which Side is Which*, *It's All the Same Anyway*, and *While Waiting for Mama*. Her illustrations are featured in children's picture books and magazines. She loves stars, fish, and milk tea, and enjoys observing people, things, stories, and the sky. This book is part of a social and emotional learning series.

How to Help Children Navigate Labels: A Reflection on *Three Orange Dots*

By Ho Hsiang Wei

In this socio-emotional learning picture book, artist and author Hsiao-chi Chang uses bold, rustic colors to lead readers into a vibrant, imaginative world.

Three orange dots follow the child protagonist everywhere. The background is filled with various creatures, all staring at the child and the dots. This visual arrangement emphasizes the embarrassment and discomfort of being seen as “different.” These three dots—like the labels others place on us—bring anxiety. Their appearance is sudden, and the child has no idea how to make them go away.

As the protagonist tries different ways to rid themselves of the dots, we witness the emotional responses often tied to labeling: denial, anxiety, anger, and avoidance. One particularly striking moment is when the child shouts at the dots and even eats an orange (without peeling it), as if trying to intimidate the dots into leaving. The dots, in the child’s imagination, have taken on a life of their own.

Despite all the efforts, the orange dots

remain. What can be done?

The story takes an unexpected turn when the child puts on a hat that covers their eyes, making the dots vanish. The hat, which shields the child from the gazes of others, offers a temporary reprieve. At the end, the hat flies away, symbolizing a spreading hope for peace and comfort.

Mysteriously, the dots disappear. Where did they go? Why did they vanish? The book suggests that dealing with outside opinions sometimes involves an element of chance.

Young children will relate to the protagonist, as the author masterfully captures a genuine childlike perspective. Notably, the design choice to leave the main character uncolored, contrasting with the vividly colored world, effectively distinguishes the child from the external environment. This technique reinforces the story’s message of finding inner calm amid external pressures.

Ho Hsiang Wei is an artist and illustrator.

Through This Book, Young Readers Learn to Recognize and Understand Their Emotions

by Guo Fu

The story’s main character is a little white dog, whose emotions are shared through a first-person perspective, bringing readers closer to its inner world. One day, three orange dots suddenly appear behind it, clinging no matter how fast it runs, impossible to shake off. The little dog is puzzled—why are these dots chasing it?

It tries ignoring them, shooing them away, even scaring and hiding from them, but nothing works. The dots follow as persistently as shadows. As the story unfolds, the little dog embarks on a curious journey filled with unexpected twists and turns. Finally, it manages to break free from the three orange dots, and with their disappearance, its gloomy feelings dissolve, leaving readers with a sense of relief and joy.

The author’s inspiration for this story stems from the theme of “escape,” symbolizing the subconscious urge to avoid certain situations in life. The Three

Orange Dots uses abstract imagery to represent those persistent, hard-to-shake emotions. Readers interpret these dots in various ways—some see them as symbols of anxiety, fear, or sadness, while others view them as representations of negative judgments from others or even self-criticism. However they are perceived, this book offers a clear lens into our inner states, gently guiding us toward a more comfortable path forward.

As part of the publisher’s Social-Emotional Learning Picture Book series, this book invites readers to explore the inner worlds of its characters and listen to their voices. Through this story, young readers can learn to recognize their emotions, understand them, and discover how to live with them.

Guo Fu is a senior editor in children’s publishing.



Would they still be able to find me?

I hid myself.



Ah! What if I put on a hat?

Inside, there were so many hats!
A boss without much hair stacked chairs
to help me grab the one I liked the most.

