**COLOURFUL PETE**

written by Judy Froman

with illustrations by [Class [INSERT CLASS NAME] (20\_\_) [INSERT SCHOOL NAME]

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One day, Tom and Tami asked their parrot what colour he’d like to be.

They said, “People are white, brown or black you see.

You, Pete, have many a different shade,

But that’s not the way that people are made.”

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“That’s very interesting,” Pete the Parrot replied.

“I’m not sure what colour I should be,” he sighed.

“I wonder why people are made just so,

Tell me, Tom and Tami – do you know?”

“Mmmm,” thought Tom and Tami. “Let us see.

We are not really not sure why this should be.

Why are people black, white or brown?”

They asked themselves, and began to frown.

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“Perhaps we should ask our clever dog.

He’s lying over there next to that log.”

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So off flew Pete (Tom and Tami just walked);

And Pete, Tom, Tami and the dog talked and talked.

They tried to work this riddle out.

How did these different colours come about?

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“Well,” said the dog, which had stopped to drink.

“I just need a moment so that I can think.

There are many different types of hound -

Some are spotted; some are plain; some are thin; some are round.

Some have long hair; some have short;

Some are homely; some love sport.

There are dogs of every single kind.

And this has helped me make up my mind!

I think difference is a wonderful thing,

It makes life much more interesting.

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Imagine if we were all the same -

That really would be such a shame.

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We all have something beautiful that makes us stand out.

We all have something special, of that I have no doubt.

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Perhaps people are just like that –

Tall, short, thin, fat,

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Black, brown, white or even pink,

Simply makes a person more interesting I think.”

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“Ah!” squawked Pete the Parrot, “Perhaps that is so.

And that’s a good thing for people to know.

It really doesn’t matter; it’s not important you see,

Because every person has his or her own beauty.”

“Yes!” squealed Tom and Tami, “And there is one more thing,

That came to us now while we were thinking.

There’s a story some say happened long ago,

About Noah and his family – it went just so:

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Noah took his family and all the animals too.

He put them in The Ark – a boat – they went in two by two.

There was then a flood – the waters tossed and curled,

And after they subsided, there was a new world.

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A rainbow appeared, way back then,

To remind us that this would never happen again!

Noah and his family then started the world anew -

They are the parents of me and you.

Noah’s sons – Shem, Japheth and Ham

Are apparently the fathers of every woman and man.

They had lots of children who moved where they thought it best.

They spread all over Earth – travelling North, South, East and West.

Some say that our colours then emerged to help us cope with the sun,

To allow people everywhere to have more fun.

For instance, Africa is hot, so, to cope with the heat,

Our skins became darker – it’s like we were given a protective sheet.

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But the interesting thing about this revelation

Is that now people all mirror the rainbow sensation!

We are really just like you, Pete, my dear friend -

When we all stand together we’re a great colourful blend!

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So, the truth is, it’s really not important what colour you are -

You are beautiful in every way – you’re a real superstar!

And what’s also so wonderful, you see,

Is that we are all brothers and sisters – we’re all one big family!

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