



As a freshman in high school, I was not much different from the students today. I thought I knew about life and who I was.

Then I was asked to read a book called *Black Like Me*. This was my first experience with a long nonfiction book. It is about a white man from Texas who changes the pigment of his skin to make himself black. He then takes a bus to the deep south and experiences life as a black man. In the book, he simply explains the tremendous prejudice that he encounters. His experience is the ultimate example of putting yourself in someone else's shoes.

I was profoundly effected by this book. I always thought I could put myself in someone else's shoes, but this man was amazing. The things he experienced just because he was a different color changed how it looked at the world. It really made me stop and think about the way I treated people.

As a teenager this was a very difficult thing to honestly do. I feel it has made me a better person and, along the way, it helped me understand the vast differences in people we meet every day.

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