

Mr. DANIELS. It has been pointed out to us by a witness who appeared here yesterday that they considered that book derogatory of the Negro race; what is your opinion?

Mr. FENOLLOSA. I was not here yesterday and I do not know the reasons given for this book being derogatory.

Mr. DANIELS. I presume you are familiar with the contents of that?

Mr. FENOLLOSA. I am familiar with the story and I think it does the opposite. It is the story of a farm in which a black lamb is born to a white ewe. The mother of the lamb pushes the black one aside. The little boy takes the black lamb from the pen, takes it into the kitchen, brings him up in the house rather than the stable, puts it under the stove, feeds it, and eventually enters it in the county fair where it wins the prize. It is the first time a black lamb has ever taken the prize in the show as best animal.

I think it is a wonderful story to show how blind acceptance of something that people have grown up with is wrong and a new attack on a problem can be made.

Dr. MATTHEW. I think we had this reaction from the Harlem parents group who spoke yesterday. They cited the story in just about the way you did just now. I think they further said that after winning the prize, the comment was made, "It is wonderful he won the prizes, but it is too bad he is black."

Mr. FENOLLOSA. I think you are correct. May I get the book and read it?

Dr. MATTHEW. Surely.

Mr. FENOLLOSA. I think in order to be appreciated the story must be read completely and we cannot do that in the time you have here.

The story ends:

"As Jeremiah told the story of Midnight, all the judges gathered around him. They listened very carefully.

"Jeremiah," said the judge who had been writing on the paper, "your lamb is a new kind to us. At first we weren't sure just how we could judge him, but we didn't let that stop us.

"We've agreed on two things about your lamb. He's black, and he likes to butt. We also agreed that his butting doesn't keep him from being a fine animal.

"I am pleased to tell you, Jeremiah, that your lamb, Midnight, has won both the blue ribbon for the best spring lamb and the special cash prize for the best lamb in the whole fair."

On the way home, Jeremiah and Granny agreed that it had been a wonderful fair.

Suddenly Jeremiah thought of something.

"Granny," he asked, "did the judges look at your grape jelly? I forgot about it!"

Granny smiled proudly. "They did," she said.

"Your black trouble-maker isn't the only one who won a first prize. We won two blue ribbons and two cash prizes."

Just then the train began to slow down.

"Granny! Granny!" shouted Jeremiah. "This is Banks Corner! We're home!"

"What's all that noise?" asked Granny.

"That's for us," said Jeremiah proudly. "People here have probably heard the news already. There's a crowd waiting at the station. Isn't it good to be home!"

"It is, indeed," agreed Granny. "And to be two prize-winners!"

Dr. MATTHEW. I think from what you said evidently the editors of this series thought that was an excellent item to include in this series because it did indicate a lamb that was black could be a winner. Anyone doubting anything black could be a winner should have second thoughts.