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Leon's Story (Sunburst Books)



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Synopsis

"Leon’s Story is a powerful, wonderful thing!" -- Nikki GiovanniI remember that as a young boy I used to look in the mirror and I would curse my color, my blackness. But in those days they didn’t call you "black." They didnt say "minority." They called us "colored" or "nigger." Leon Tillage grew up the son of a sharecropper in a small town in North Carolina. Told in vignettes, this is his story about walking four miles to the school for black children, and watching a school bus full of white children go past. It’s about his being forced to sit in the balcony at the movie theater, hiding all night when the Klansmen came riding, and worse. Much worse.But it is also the story of a strong family and the love that bound them together. And, finally, it’s about working to change an oppressive existence by joining the civil rights movement. Edited from recorded interviews conducted by Susan L. Roth, Leon’s story will stay with readers long after they have finished his powerful account.Leon’s Story is the winner of the 1998 Boston Globe - Horn Book Award for Nonfiction.

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 970L (What’s this?)

Series: Sunburst Books

Paperback: 112 pages

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Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars 22 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #225,269 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #205 inÃ Â Books > Children’s Books > Education & Reference > History > United States > 1900s #339 inÃ Â Books > Children’s Books > Biographies > Multicultural #25599 inÃ Â Books > History

Age Range: 9 - 13 years

Grade Level: 3 - 8

Customer Reviews

Gr 4 Up-Tillage, the son of North Carolina sharecroppers, looks back on his experience of growing up black in the Jim Crow South. Told in simple, straightforward language, this heart-wrenching memoir was transcribed from taped recordings of Tillage’s spoken story and edited with his

assistance and consent. Striking black-and-white collage designs separate chapters. Audio version available from Recorded Books.Ã Â (c) Copyright 2013. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.

Tillage, a black custodian in a Baltimore private school, reminisces about his childhood as a sharecropper's son in the South, and his youth as a civil-rights protester. He explains the mechanics of sharecropping and segregation, tells of his mistreatment and his father's murder at the hands of white teenagers out to ``have some fun,'' and relates his experiences with police dogs, fire hoses, and jail while following Martin Luther King's ideas of nonviolent protest. Tillage matter-of-factly recounts horrific events, using spare language that is laced with remarkable wisdom, compassion, and optimism. Such gentleness only gives his story more power, as he drives home the harder realities of his childhood. Although the collage illustrations are interesting, they are too moody and remote for the human spirit behind the words, and readers will regret Roth's decision--especially in light of the boy smiling so brightly on the cover--that ``even one photo would be too many for Leon Walter Tillage's words.'' (Memoir. 8-14) -- Copyright Ã Â©1997, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Simply written, moving, and realistic account of life for an African-American boy in the Jim Crow south. However, the graphic account of violence against Blacks is not appropriate for children. I think it is appropriate for young adults, perhaps starting in Grade 11.

love it

good book

Beautiful!

Good!

very good condition for the price Brilliant product. you will love it as I do Id buy this again. Great value. it seems to be well worth the money I spent on it. I am definitely going to order more

Leon's story is about a boy who lives in the segregation times. He is about 12 when he is telling this

story. It is his story about his life and how he got through it. He is pretending like this segregation thing isn't even happening. One day he was going to this little restaurant to get something to eat, and black people can't enter in the front way because white people don't like it when they enter that way. Black people have to enter through the back and order something to eat. When black people go back there, there is a white person who waits on them. Leon said that if they want to wait on you they will come. There is no bell or anything like that. Leon will just wait to get waited on and he will order something. This book is really awesome and very educational. I would recommend this book to anyone who can read. The best story element for this book would be the suspense. This book is packed with suspense. It got me guessing all the way through. I really enjoyed this book and I hope you do too.

"Leon's Story" is the 1997 winner of the Elementary School Division of the Carter G. Woodson Book Award given by the National Council for the Social Studies for Multicultural Nonfiction taking place in the United States. The discussions between students and adults will be thought provoking. Questions will abound regarding why a nice person faced such horrid discrimination. I would recommend this for a read-aloud in the upper elementary grades so that the teacher can provide background information. Middle school and junior high students will find this book memorable and would make a great book for discussions regarding ethics, morality, history, social change, and civil rights. I would recommend schools obtaining classroom sets.

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