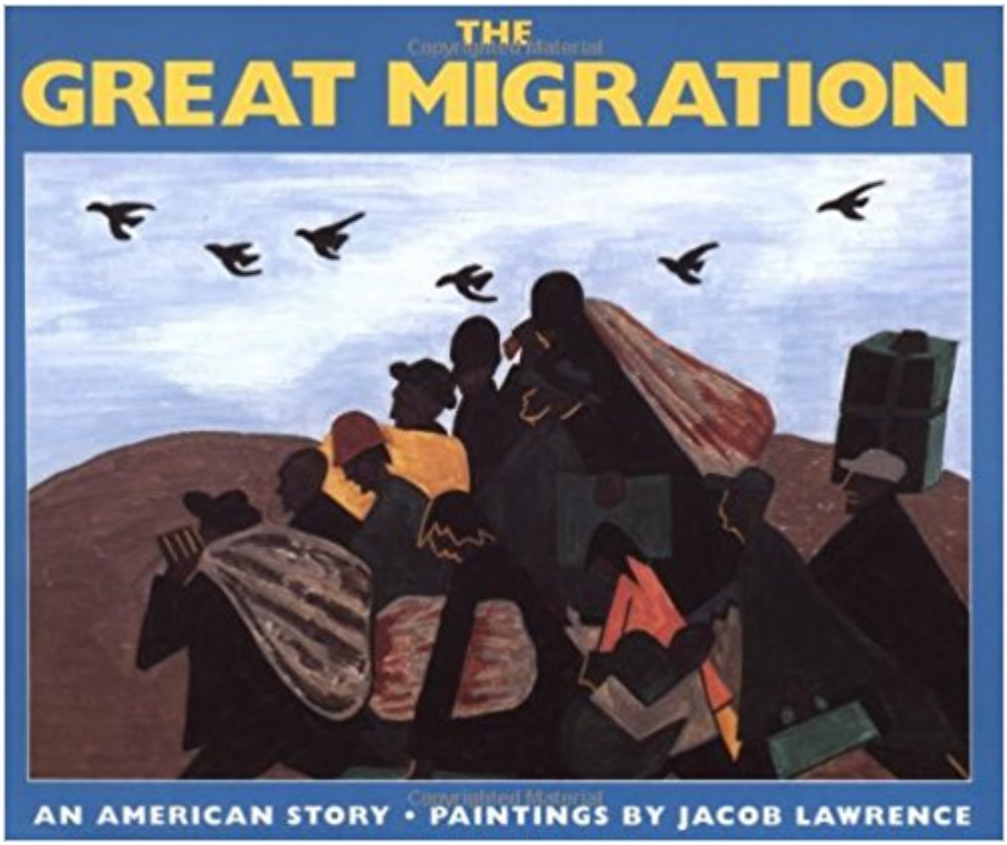
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The Great Migration: An American Story



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Synopsis

This critically acclaimed picture book suitable for a wide range of readers chronicles the Great MigrationÃ¢â ¬â •the diaspora of African Americans who headed to the North after WWIÃ¢â ¬â •through the iconic paintings and words of renowned artist Jacob Lawrence. The New York Times praised it as "a compassionate and sensitive portrayal of history.Ã¢â ¬Â•After World War I, large numbers of African Americans began leaving their homes in the rural South in search of employment, and a better life, in the industrial cities of the North like Chicago and Pittsburgh.Jacob Lawrence chronicled their journey of hope in his sixty-panel Migration Series, a flowing narrative sequence of paintings that can now be found divided betweenÃ Â the Museum of Modern Art and the Phillips Collection.In this profound picture book, Lawrence brings all those landmark paintings together and pairs them with poetic text that further explores the experience of those enduring this mass exodus. From dealing with poor working conditions and competition for living space to widespread prejudice and racism, this is the story of strength, courage, and hope of the more than six million African Americans who were trying to build better lives for themselves and their families. This book features an introduction from LawrenceÃ¢â ¬â •whose family was part of this great migrationÃ¢â ¬â •about its personal significanceÃ Â as well as a poem by Newbery Honor author Walter Dean Myers.ALA Notable BookALA Booklist EditorsÃ¢â ¬â„¢ ChoiceIRA/CBC Teachers' ChoiceNotable Children's Trade Book in the Field of Social Studies (NCSS/CBC)Carter G. Woodson Outstanding Merit Book

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 830L (What's this?)

Paperback: 48 pages

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Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars 21 customer reviews

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Cultures > Multicultural Stories > African-American

Age Range: 4 - 8 years

Grade Level: 3 and up

Customer Reviews

PW’s starred review praised the "starkly poetic art" and "eloquent text" of this account of the northward flow of African Americans after WWI. Ages 8-up. Copyright 1995 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Grade 3 Up-A noted African-American artist chronicles the 1916-1919 migration of blacks from the South through a sequence of 60 paintings and accompanying narrative captions. The story begins with the call for new workers in the North to replace those men fighting in Europe. There was no justice for African Americans under Southern law, and sharecropping kept them poor. Lawrence depicts their arrival in Chicago and Pittsburgh; their new jobs in factories; the attacks against them by white workers; and their new opportunities, such as voting and going to school. At first, most of the paintings are set in the South, showing only a few people venturing north. Later on, the artwork is more crowded, with the phrase "And the migrants kept coming" repeated over and over again. The cumulative effect is powerful, and could not have been achieved by illustrations or words alone. Although more abstract than realistic, the paintings evoke fear and hope and transmit the courage of those who left behind everything they had known in order to find a better life. Since its completion in 1941, the art has been scattered among several museums, and young readers are fortunate to have it collected here in a single volume. A moving poem by Walter Dean Myers makes a fitting conclusion to this exceptional title.Lyn Miller-Lachmann, Siena College Library, Loudonville, NYCopyright 1993 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

This is a terrific introduction, for kids, to the phenomenon of the Great Migration of 1940s - 1970s of blacks moving to the North to escape the racism of the South. The story is told in beautiful paintings, small on wood boards, by Jacob Lawrence, son of a couple who were part of this movement and who settled in Harlem. Reading Lawrence’s words and studying his paintings is a vivid way for kids to learn about this important piece of American history that is far from over today. I recommend highly.

I found this small volume while searching for a possible affordable print of one of Jacob Lawrence's Migration paintings. I got more -- the whole of his Migration series with notes from him, in a very affordable format. Learn from it: the early 20th Century diaspora of African Americans in America, the strength of people seeking a better life that is playing out even now in many parts of the world, importance of artists (in this case, one artist) as social critics and historians,. CR

I hope this is still in print, if not, should be reprinted. As an Art teacher (elementary level) it's something I'll use again and again.

An amazing story, beautifully portrayed. I saw the original paintings on view at MOMA and had to have the book. MOMA's book price started at $50, but this version was less than $10.

Everyone should know about Jacob Lawrence! He was a great artist and the Migration series is an invaluable tool for teaching young people a piece of American history and the history of black people in the U.S. Sad, poignant, beautiful.

Stunning and beautiful. Just what I wanted for my grandchildren.

Beautiful. Wish the pictures were larger

This book belongs on your coffee table.The paintings are wonderful and there is a little history with each painting.This book illustrates and explains how African Americans arrived north. Not only will adults enjoyed this book but children will as well.

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