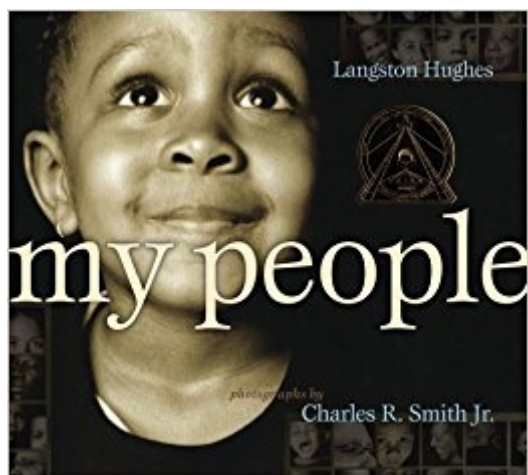


The book was found

My People (Coretta Scott King Award - Illustrator Winner Title(s))



Synopsis

Langston Hughes's spare yet eloquent tribute to his people has been cherished for generations. Now, acclaimed photographer Charles R. Smith Jr. interprets this beloved poem in vivid sepia photographs that capture the glory, the beauty, and the soul of being a black American today.

Book Information

Series: Coretta Scott King Award - Illustrator Winner Title(s)

Hardcover: 40 pages

Publisher: Atheneum Books for Young Readers; First Edition edition (January 6, 2009)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1416935401

ISBN-13: 978-1416935407

Product Dimensions: 10 x 0.4 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 13.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars 44 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #394,222 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #57 in [Books > Children's Books > Arts, Music & Photography > Photography](#) #579 in [Books > Children's Books > Biographies > Multicultural](#) #711 in [Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Multicultural Stories > African-American](#)

Age Range: 4 - 8 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 3

Customer Reviews

Starred Review. At just thirty-three words total, [this] poem is a study in simplicity, writes Smith (Rimshots; If); in its visual simplicity, his picture-book presentation is a tour de force. Introducing the poem two or three words at a time, Smith pairs each phrase with a portrait of one or more African-Americans; printed in sepia, the faces of his subjects materialize on black pages. The night, reads the opening spread, across from an image of a man's face, his eyes shut; is beautiful, continues the next spread, showing the same face, now with eyes open and a wide smile. The text, sized big to balance the portraits, shows up in hues that range from white to tan to brown-black, reflecting Smith's reading that the words celebrate black people of differing shades and ages. An inventive design adds a short, shadowed row or column of small portraits to the edge of many spreads; these quietly reinforce the concept of my people. Whether of babies, children or adults, Smith's faces emerge into the light, displaying the best that humanity has to

offer intelligence, wisdom, curiosity, love and joy. Ages 4-8. (Jan.) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

Starred Review. K Up Smith's knack for pairing poetry and photography is well documented in books such as *Hoop Queens* (Candlewick, 2003) and Rudyard Kipling's *If* (S & S, 2006). Here, his artful images engage in a lyrical and lively dance with Langston Hughes's brief ode to black beauty. Dramatic sepia portraits of African Americans—ranging from a cherubic, chubby-cheeked toddler to a graying elder whose face is etched with lines—are bathed in shadows, which melt into black backgrounds. The 33 words are printed in an elegant font in varying sizes as emphasis dictates. In order to maximize the effect of the page turn and allow time for meaning to be absorbed, the short phrases and their respective visual narratives often spill over more than a spread. The conclusion offers a montage of faces created with varying exposures, a decision that provides a light-filled aura and the irregularities that suggest historical prints. A note from Smith describes his approach to the 1923 poem. This celebration of the particular and universal will draw a wide audience: storytime participants; students of poetry, photography, and cultural studies; seniors; families. A timely and timeless offering. Wendy Lukehart, Washington DC Public Library
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Don't be afraid to buy this book, even for the youngest child. My six-month-old loves looking at the pictures, tracing the faces with his fingers. My five-year-old asks me to read it to the six-month-old so he can look and listen as well. I've already bought copies for the other mamas of brown-skinned babies in my family. I highly recommend it as an introduction to African-American literature for young children.

Wonderful book to use in classroom to teach about Langston Hughes and his poetry.

Words can't express the pride that I felt as, an African-American, when I saw Langston Hughes' poetry come to life in this children's book. The photography of Charles R. Smith, Jr. seems to embody the spirit of this simple poem, *My People*. I know everyone reads this book will be enthralled with both the poetry and the photography.

This quick little story is so cute and brought joy to my soul. Just seeing the faces amongst the few words written on the pages said SO much! The book was delivered quickly and was in excellent

condition.

The images match the words of this beautiful poetic piece. Makes it come alive as the reader reads the words and looks at the faces.

This is a most gorgeous book. I am glad that that Mr. Smith decided to create it. The poem remains one of my favorite and the photographs simply add to the beauty of it.

I am a teacher and the mom to two kids, one birthchild and one adopted child who is African-American (ages 11 and 8). I am also a collector of picture books. Qualities that I look for in a book were in this one: Excellent "storyline"-poem by Langston Hughes, emotionally moving, inspirational or unique artwork, has a message or learning in it, speaks about the perspective people or families who are in the minority or living an alternative lifestyle. The photography in this book is exceptional, showing all ages of African-American people, and the text fits so well with the images, or the other way around!! I had goosebumps when I read it! That is a huge thumbs up! I highly recommend this book!

I would have loved to have read a Langston Hughes poem first then understand the beautiful pictures taken by Charles R Smith Jr that would make me appreciate the depth of pride these guys are telling me about my people.

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