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Leon's Story (Sunburst Books)



Synopsis

"Leon's Story is a powerful, wonderful thing!" -- Nikki Giovanni
I 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 didn't 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

Publisher: Square Fish; Reprint edition (September 1, 2000)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0374443300

ISBN-13: 978-0374443306

Product Dimensions: 5.1 x 0.3 x 7 inches

Shipping Weight: 3.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (21 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #78,470 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) [#74 in Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > History > United States > 1900s](#) [#134 in Books > Children's Books > Biographies > Multicultural](#) [#7270 in Books > History](#)

Age Range: 9 - 13 years

Grade Level: 3 - 8

Customer Reviews

"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.

I think Leon's Story is an awesome book! It is about this boy that lives in this horrible world. It is a very sad book, you could cry some and you can laugh some. The saddest part was when Leon's dad got ran over. I think it was real strong of Leon and his family to march to get freedom. I recommend this book to anyone that can read because I think that everyone should read this book and know what they had to go through back in those days. Once again it is a very awesome book!

This is a gut-wrenching true story of a young Black boy who grew up on a farm just outside Raleigh, North Carolina. Although simplistically written, the stories are riveting. It's hard to believe that anyone could be so cruel to someone just because their skin was the wrong color. A must read....

Have you ever wondered what would happen if Martin Luther King Jr. wasn't born? In this book a boy named Leon tells you how blacks were treated back then. One part in the story Leon was at work for his "owner" and the owner brings his dogs out and lets them get Leon! Leon jumps on the car's roof and prays and out of know where a white person comes out and says "If you dont realease that boy then I will shoot the dogs." That time Leon got saved. There are so many other exciting, scary, and sad parts of this book! This was one of the best books that I have read about blacks and whites when they are not rejoiced!

I think this book is a good book for readers who like sad, but cool stories. I think one of the sad parts of the book is the part where his father gets run over. I recommend this book for people age 6 and up. Great book!

In this book, Leon's story, it is about a young man named Leon. He was a colored boy who grew up in the times of slavery. Leon has to learn how to act around others of another race so he doesn't get himself in any trouble. Leon also has to learn how to hide from the ku-klux-klan. The most important and shocking part of this book happened on Leon's 15 birthday. On this day Leon's parents go to the store and on their return they are approached by a group of three young white boys driving in

their car, the outcome of this is not very good. Most of this book was written in a way so that it was like the author was actually speaking to you person to person. This was a pretty interesting book and if I had to I would probably read it again.

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.

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.

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