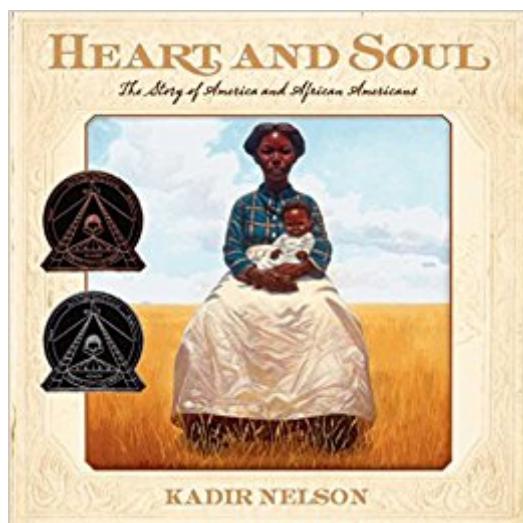


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# Heart And Soul: The Story Of America And African Americans



## **Synopsis**

Kadir Nelson's *Heart and Soul* "the winner of numerous awards, including the 2012 Coretta Scott King Author Award and Illustrator Honor, and the recipient of five starred reviews" now features eight pages of discussion and curriculum material. The story of America and African Americans is a story of hope and inspiration and unwavering courage. This is the story of the men, women, and children who toiled in the hot sun picking cotton for their masters; it's about the America ripped in two by Jim Crow laws; it's about the brothers and sisters of all colors who rallied against those who would dare bar a child from an education. It's a story of discrimination and broken promises, determination, and triumphs. Told through the unique point of view and intimate voice of a one-hundred-year-old African-American female narrator, this inspiring book demonstrates that in gaining their freedom and equal rights, African Americans helped our country achieve its promise of liberty and justice "the true heart and soul of our nation. Supports the Common Core State Standards

## **Book Information**

Lexile Measure: 1050 (What's this?)

Paperback: 112 pages

Publisher: Balzer + Bray; Reprint edition (December 23, 2013)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0061730793

ISBN-13: 978-0061730795

Product Dimensions: 0.5 x 10.2 x 10.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.1 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars 72 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #79,958 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #125 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Difficult Discussions > Prejudice & Racism #159 in Books > Children's Books > Biographies > Multicultural #220 in Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Multicultural Stories > African-American

Age Range: 6 - 10 years

Grade Level: 1 - 5

## **Customer Reviews**

As in *WE ARE THE SHIP*, Nelson knits together the nation's proudest moments with its most shameful, taking on the whole of African-American history. He handles this vast subject with easy

grace. [Nelsonâ™s] jaw-dropping portraits radiate determination and strength. A tremendous achievement. (Publishers Weekly (starred review))The dramatic oil paintings heighten the dignity of this story, whether they are of well-known historical figures, common folk or landscapeâ [This intimate narrative makes the stories accessible to young readers and powerfully conveys how personal this history feels for many African-Americans. (Kirkus Reviews (starred review))Nelsonâ |adds to his notable titles with this powerful view of African American history. Illustrated with 44 full-page paintings, this handsome volume is told in the fictionalized, informal voice of an African American senior looking back on her life and remembering what her elders told her. (Booklist (starred review))Provocative and powerful, this book offers a much-needed perspective for individuals of all ages seeking to understand Americaâ™s past and present. (School Library Journal (starred review))Nelson effectively creates a voice that is at once singular and representative. A tour de force in the career of an author/artist who continues to outdo himself. (Horn Book (starred review))

The story of America and African Americans is a story of hope and inspiration and unwavering courage. This is the story of the men, women, and children who toiled in the hot sun picking cotton for their masters; it's about the America ripped in two by Jim Crow laws; it's about the brothers and sisters of all colors who rallied against those who would dare bar a child from an education. It's a story of discrimination and broken promises, determination, and triumphs.

Do you remember the kids books that you will simply never forget? For me it was always the pictures. If the pictures weren't good . . . the book wasn't good. Curious George . . . Where the Wild Things Are . . . Dr. Seuss . . . it's the pictures that grab you, then the story that holds you. This whole book is a work of art, without being artsy. The pictures are just astonishing. Really. This book would be worth buying even without words. I can't imagine the time put into it and wonder if some of the illustrations are part of larger exhibits, on a mural somewhere etc. I also like the personal folksy story telling tone - although it sometimes seems to have a southern accent and sometimes doesn't. At 100 pages and 12 chapters it's not a one night bedtime story for young kids . . . But in my mind it is totally deserving of required reading status for say ages 8 through . . . 108?

This book is so simple that it's an easy read for young people trying to understand African American History... yet the illustrations can capture the eye of the young and old. I love this book. I have it in the living room, and everyone that opens it does not want to put it down.

Kadir Nelson's illustrations are perfection. His art work gives life to the history and contributions of African Americans in America. I purchased 32 copies of this book for members of a Girl Scout troop (ages 8 - 12) as a part of their Black History project. The girls loved the book and learned a great deal about some of most important people and events in history. The troop leaders and parents were fascinated with the book and wanted to know where to get additional copies. Although Nelson's gives a broad brush approach to three decades of African American history, this beautifully crafted book highlights significant events and is a wonderful introduction to the history African Americans in our country. I highly recommend *Heart and Soul: The Story of American and African Americans* to teachers, librarians and parents.

I purchased this book in 2011 after hearing the author interview on the radio. Finally got around to reading it to my kids this year 2014. I read it to my 10 y/o and 8 y/o. I normal routine is to read at bedtime. They did not want me to put this book down. They love this book and I do as well. It a book written on their level that tells the journey of African Americans from beginning to where we are today - from slavery to the Reconstruction era to Women's right to vote to Civil Rights Era to electing our first black President. My sons looked forward to reading this book every night. Their only disappointment was that the book had to end. I've been telling everyone in my circle that this is a must read!

What a beautifully illustrated book with images that appear to be so realistic. It really adds to the nature of the text, which provides a valuable overview of United States history and the lives of African Americans from the Revolutionary War era to the present day. This allows the reader to "travel back in time to find out about people, places and events from long ago" (Temple, Martinez, & Yokota, 2011, p. 360). The book is interesting as it gives several inspirational stories from real families and individuals that had an impact in shaping the history. The journey and progress of the African American culture is portrayed in a different nature then how most children learn about history through textbooks, which I think gives this book great appeal! References: Nelson, K. (2011). *Heart and soul: The story of America and African Americans*. New York, NY: HarperCollins Publishers. Temple, C., Martinez, M., & Yokota, J. (2011). *Children's books in children's hands: An introduction to their literature*. Boston, MA: Pearson Education, Inc.

This book was an incredible resource to expose my third grade students to the history of Black

Americans. Reading the book aloud to my students inspired lots of deep, real and vulnerable conversations and discussions about slavery, civil rights, etc. Many of my students had never heard of some of the vital history discussed in this book.

My kids love to read, and this past summer we have dwelled into the current climate of the U.S and Black America, often times leaving me to figure out where to start. This book definitely helps start that conversation and what better way to do it, with something they love--books!

Stunning!!! My only regret is not getting the hardback! I can't wait to share this with my family. It's a beautiful addition to our homeschool library!

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