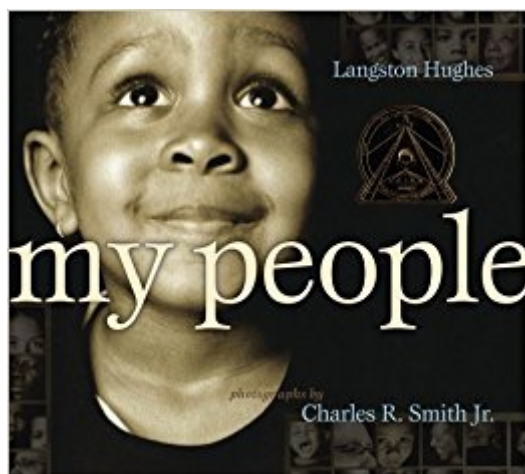


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# My People (Coretta Scott King Award - Illustrator Winner Title(s))



## 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: 4.7 out of 5 stars Â Â See all reviews Â (42 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #311,542 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #46 in Â Books > Children's Books > Arts, Music & Photography > Photography #485 in Â Books > Children's Books > Biographies > Multicultural #561 in Â Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Multicultural Stories > African-American

Age Range: 4 - 8 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 3

## Customer Reviews

There are only thirty-two short words in Langston Hughes poem, *My People*, a poem he used to celebrate his black heritage. Charles R. Smith, Jr. stunning visual translation "capture(s) the glory, the beauty and the soul of being a black American today." *My People* The night is beautiful, So the faces of my people. The stars are beautiful, So the eyes of my people. Beautiful, also, is the sun. Beautiful, also, are the souls of my people. I loved the visual effect of the sepia photographs set against a black background. The thought that Smith put into this book is obvious, the result breathtaking. This book is a page turner for young and old alike and one to be revisited time and time again!

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.

Sepia photographs paired with the eloquent words of Langston Hughes capture the essence of being a black American today. Images of the night, faces, stars, eyes, sun and souls all embody the lives of "my people." This is a timely book for the election year, which celebrates the souls of black America. It will appeal to children ages 3-6.

My People was a beautiful story told by mostly pictures and occasional poetic phrases. The story may not have been told by many words, but the message couldn't have been any more clear had the pictures and analogies used in the book been removed. Langston Hughes brilliantly delivered such a strong message about the strength of believing in yourself and your people. Being a book for children, and incorporating poetry that's well hidden behind the essence of the photographs taken by Charles Smith Jr, I found it to be very catchy. A well developed book that truly captures what it means to be an African American. Although it isn't said, I am sure the book was meant to portray a very meaningful message to children. That message is a deep one, believe in yourself, be proud of who you are and be proud of who you have in your life, 'Your People'.

Words can't express the pride that I felt as, an African-American, when I saw Langston Hughes' poetry came 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.

My People by Langston Hughes contain only a few words, but gets its point across perfectly. He uses only a few words to let the reader focus on the picture. The author used sepia photographs set against a black background; a great visual effect which sets the books significance and darkness. Both the words and photographs capture the core of being a black American nowadays. Hughes was successfully able to write a beautiful poem and able to translate it into pictures.

Translating words into pictures is a very difficult task, translating the words of Langston Hughes into pictures is almost impossible, unless of course your name is Charles R. Smith Jr. In My People Charles took the words of Langston Hughes's timeless poem and put together an award-winning book of photographs that highlighted the words of the poem. His choice to use a sepia filter on the pictures make and the layout of the text ensure My People will be a beloved book for centuries to

come. I would absolutely recommend this book to all people as a way to teach and remind us that all color is beautiful!

This book called My People is a beautifully written poem that captures the meaning of being a proud African American. Charles R. Smith captures stunning sepia photographs of the young and old throughout almost every page. The words throughout the pages are a golden color and enlarged to gather a powerful meaning that engages the reader. Not only are the words kept short and simple but they're inspiring by clarifying the meaning of this book. Langston Hughes did a profound job and I would recommend this book to anyone.

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