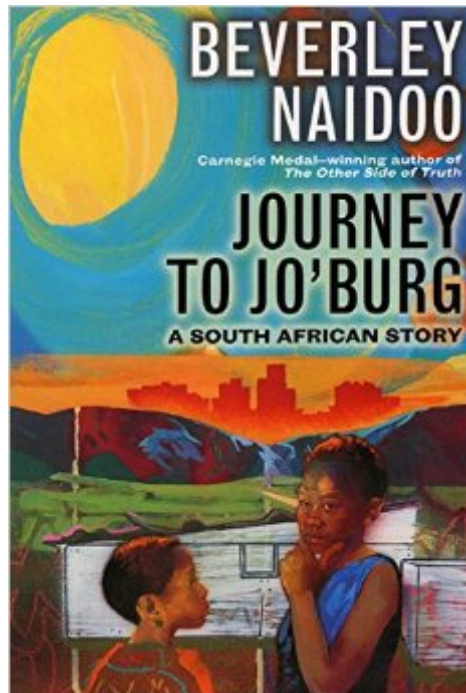


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Journey To Jo'burg: A South African Story



Synopsis

If only Mma was here, Naledi wished over and over. . . Mma lives and works in Johannesburg, far from the village thirteen-year-old Naledi and her younger brother, Tiro, call home. When their baby sister suddenly becomes very sick, Naledi and Tiro know, deep down, that only one person can save her. Bravely, alone, they set off on a journey to find Mma and bring her back. It isn't until they reach the city that they come to understand the dangers of their country, and the painful struggle for freedom and dignity that is taking place all around them.

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 760L (What's this?)

Paperback: 96 pages

Publisher: HarperCollins; Reprint edition (December 24, 2002)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0064402371

ISBN-13: 978-0064402378

Product Dimensions: 0.2 x 5.2 x 7.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 0.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 3.8 out of 5 starsÂ Â See all reviewsÂ (47 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #195,867 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #14 inÂ Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Historical Fiction > Africa #103 inÂ Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Explore the World > Africa #676 inÂ Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Family Life > Parents

Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 5 - 7

Customer Reviews

This is a copy/paste from my Goodreads review I was introduced to this book through the International Children's Literature course I'm taking this semester. It's a wonderful class providing me with many opportunities to read books published in other countries in order to learn more about the people who live in those countries which is something all us self-centered Americans need to do. For American children, this may be one of the only books out there describing what life is like for non-whites in a country outside the United States. I really liked this story, it was published in 1986 and in the wake of Nelson Mandela's death last year it can definitely be classified now under historical fiction as most realistic fiction being published today contains too many graphic details

while this book is refreshingly innocent and full of hope in a country divided by apartheid. The characters are real and they deal with their problems in a realistic way. Their dialogue is also sprinkled with words from their own native language so the reader can better understand this culture. The 3rd person narrative allows the reader to share the exciting journey about a thirteen year old big sister and her little brother. They decide to travel to the city of Johannesburg, South Africa in search of their mother who works for a rich white family because their baby sister is deathly ill. The village hospital could provide the proper care and treatment but their family is very poor and "Mma" (mother in the Tswana language) is the family's only source of income since their father died in a mine accident.

Mma is given only a week from her employment, so they hurry back to the village. Mma took Dineo to the hospital; the doctor kept Dineo until her fever was broken. Mma was told to be sure that the baby had plenty of milk, fruits, and vegetables. However, they rarely have money for any of these things. On their journey to Johannesburg, Naledi learned about the older students who were trying to change the unfair practices of apartheid. She is determined to find out about this and become part of the change. They are going on the bus and they did not read the sign it was a white sign they had to walk to the black sign because they was that the white sign. The mom wanted to see her girl because she was sick. The owner was going to a dinner and the owner said that you can see your little girl tomorrow. A woman said that it is not right that they have to put kids in jail. Grace had a passport but her friend didn't. When they went home two boys ran out the house. One of the girls was splashing water and the girl said do not do that because she remember when she had to buy water. The mom said that the kids need schools and but the black and white tougher. On the banner that Dumi and his friends carried, they had written on the back of a paper they wrote BLACKS ARE NOT DUSTBINS. Dineo the baby is very sick; Naledi was afraid because so many babies have died from this sickness. She and her brother Tiro traveled to Johannesburg to get Mma. Mma was a maid in a white lady's home, and the lady grudgingly allowed Mma to return home to help Dineo. On their trip to Jo'burg, both Naledi and Tiro learn about the things that happen to black people under the white government called apartheid. They discover that they could be shot for picking and eating an orange just because they are hungry.

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