Sail Away
Synopsis

A celebration of mermaids, wildernesses of waves, and the creatures of the deep through poems by Langston Hughes and cut-paper collage illustrations by multiple Coretta Scott King Awardâ­“winner Ashley Bryan. The great African-American poet Langston Hughes penned poem after poem about the majesty of the sea, and the great African-American artist Ashley Bryan, whoâ­™s spent more than half his life on a small island, is as drawn to the sea as much as he draws the sea. Their talents combine in this windswept collection of illustrated poemsâ­“from à ºThe Negro Speaks of Rivers à • to à ºSeascape, à • from à ºSea Calm à • to à ºSea Charm à ¯ that celebrates all things oceanic.

Book Information

Hardcover: 40 pages
Publisher: Atheneum Books for Young Readers (September 1, 2015)
Language: English
ISBN-10: 1481430858
Product Dimensions: 9 x 0.4 x 10.5 inches
Shipping Weight: 1.6 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)
Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars À See all reviews (4 customer reviews)
Age Range: 4 - 8 years
Grade Level: Preschool - 3

Customer Reviews

Summary: 15 of Langston Hughesâ­™ poems, all having to do with the sea or water, are presented here, illustrated by award-winning illustrator Ashley Bryan, still going strong at age 92. The pictures are colorful collages with swirls of bright color that perfectly capture the sea and the ships and people that travel on it. 40 pages; ages 5-10. Pros: If youâ­™re like me, your knowledge of Langston Hughes is limited to à ºHarlem à • (à ºWhat happens to a dream deferred?à •). I was surprised that he wrote so many beautiful poems about the ocean. Theyâ­™re accessible for young children, with language and imagery that could be appreciated by older ones. Readers will love the brightly colored illustrations and may be inspired to try their hands at collage. Cons: There was no
author’s note. I would have loved to learn more about Hughes and how he came to write these poems.

Hughes has a way of connecting words and creating imaginary that stimulates all of your senses. The artwork is abstract, colorful and creative. A great picture book that is guaranteed to spark conversation. 4 stars

To try to review a book like this is impossible. In my opinion, this is a book that touches each person, no matter what age they are, with joy, sadness, and many other emotions.

What a gorgeous book. Langston would be so pleased. Ashley is incredible.

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