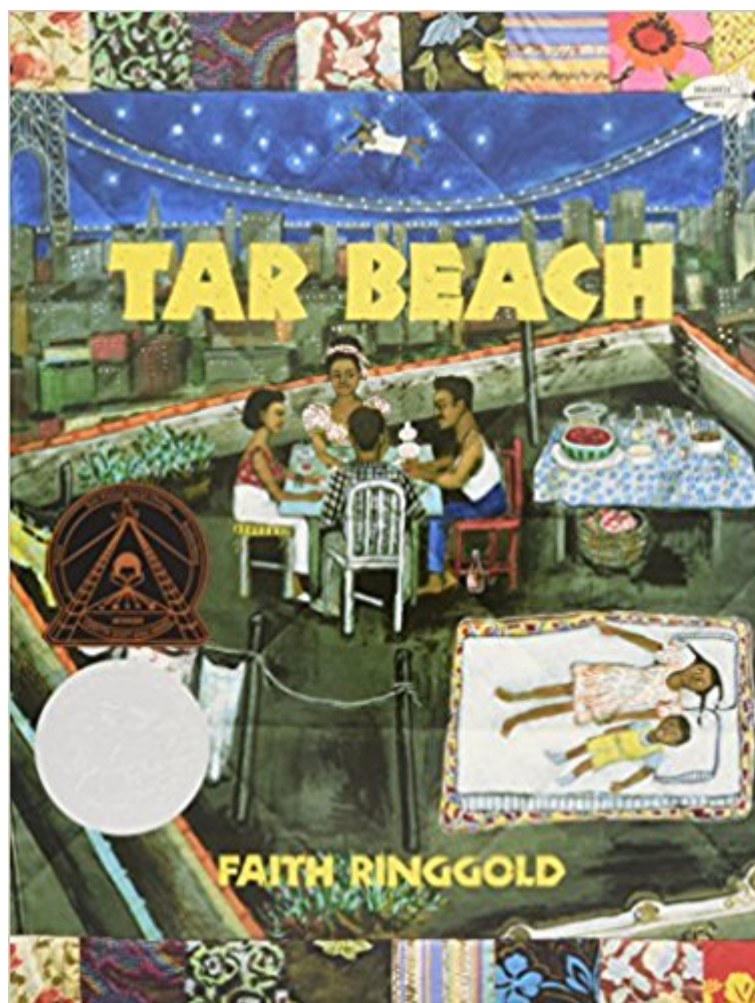


The book was found

Tar Beach



Synopsis

Illus. in full color. "Ringgold recounts the dream adventure of eight-year-old Cassie Louise Lightfoot, who flies above her apartment-building rooftop, the 'tar beach' of the title, looking down on 1939 Harlem. Part autobiographical, part fictional, this allegorical tale sparkles with symbolic and historical references central to African-American culture. The spectacular artwork resonates with color and texture. Children will delight in the universal dream of mastering one's world by flying over it. A practical and stunningly beautiful book."--(starred) Horn Book.Â Â

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 790L (What's this?)

Series: Dragonfly Books

Paperback: 32 pages

Publisher: Dragonfly Books; Dragonfly Books ed edition (December 3, 1996)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0517885441

ISBN-13: 978-0517885444

Product Dimensions: 9.2 x 0.1 x 12 inches

Shipping Weight: 7 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars 69 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #32,342 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #60 inÂ Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Historical Fiction > United States > 1900s #94 inÂ Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Multicultural Stories > African-American #244 inÂ Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > Self-Esteem & Self-Respect

Age Range: 5 - 8 years

Grade Level: Kindergarten - 3

Customer Reviews

"Quilt paintings"--acrylic on canvas paper, with fabric borders from Ringgold's story quilt of the same name--illustrate a Depression era girl's imaginative foray to heights from which she can see and therefore claim her world. Picnicking on the roof of her family's Harlem apartment building--a "tar beach" to which they bring fried chicken and roasted peanuts, watermelon and beer, and, not least, friends and laughter--Cassie pictures herself soaring above New York City: above the George Washington Bridge, which her father helped build; above the headquarters of the union that has

denied him membership, because he's black; above the rooms in which they live. Ringgold's strong figures and flattened perspective bring a distinctive magic to this dreamy and yet wonderfully concrete vision, narrated in poetic cadences that capture the language and feel of flight. Ages 4-8. Copyright 1990 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

Grade 1 Up--Tar Beach is a work of modern art translated into a children's picture book, and the adaptation is so natural that it seems inevitable. From her 1988 story quilt, reproduced on the cover and within the last pages of the book, Ringgold has taken both the setting and the text. The painted scene in the center of the quilt shows a Harlem rooftop on a starry night with four adults playing cards and with Cassie Louise Lightfoot and her brother, Be Be, lying on a blanket gazing at the sky. Cassie sees herself flying over the city lights; dreams of wearing the George Washington Bridge as a necklace; imagines giving her father the union building he is not allowed to join because of his half-black, half-Indian heritage; flies over the ice cream factory; and takes her little brother with her to the sky. Cassie's story, written along the borders of the quilt in tiny script, becomes the text of the book. The illustrations painted for the book version are done in the same colorful, naive style as the quilt. This type of art translates beautifully into the storybook format, and a border of bright fabric designs on the bottom of each page duplicates the material used in the quilt. In capturing the euphoria of a child's dreams, and in its gentle reminder of the social injustices of the adult world, the book is both universal and contemporary. --Shirley Wilton, Ocean County College, Toms River, NJ Copyright 1991 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

The best scenario: The child has been to a museum and viewed the quilt "Tar Beach" or has spent a summer evening on the roof of a New York City building that doesn't have air conditioning and knows that there is no actual beach in the book. That is not an inference a child would make on his or her own. As neither of these things are likely, I found that there was a lot of peripheral information needed for a child of 9 to enjoy and understand the book. We looked at Faith Ringgold images on the net, especially her wonderful sculptures, so that one got the idea of who she is. I explained why a person building a bridge would be nicknamed a "half-breed indian" and what a "union" is and why that would be important. I was reading with a black child who recently arrived from her first home which was in England. She didn't know that African Americans were formerly known as colored, nor that there had been restrictions in America for African Americans (or in her case, British Americans of African origin). I probably should have begun with the Michael Venezia Book on Faith Ringgold which would have been more biographical in general, and then, later, to "Tar Beach" which was

about the artist's relationship to that one work of art. So, this is a good book, which needs adult guidance. The little girl for whom I bought the book liked it and it helped her understand how her grandpa, who now lives in Miami, grew up as a little boy in Harlem.

I love this book! I take it everywhere I go! I am a fifth generation textile artist. My family makes quilts and sews clothes. The quilts are BEAUTIFUL and the young girl is inspiring. I met Faith Ringgold at an art quilt conference in Madison, Wisconsin years ago given by the education department at the University of Wisconsin at Madison. She was very encouraging and warmly supportive. I also work as a registered nurse and I have bought her books for my pediatric patients. I highly recommend this book!

I have looked for this book for years but couldn't think of the name of it. The imagery is fascinating and just like I remember as a girl (from reading rainbow). Happy I can share this with my daughter! ^ ^ ^

These books make the artists real children in ways they can relate to them...as children. These are a great gift for the young artist or for any child who wants to learn more about famous people in a fun way.

Bought this for my best friend's birthday -- she remembers the "tar beaches" of her girlhood. For her this story is an accurate representation of those times. Beautiful story, beautifully illustrated.

This is such an amazing story! My 1st grade students love this book and want to write one like this of their own. Anything with children flying in the book the children just adore.

Great book! Sweet and lovely but with a nice message that I expect to grow. My 2 year old is already asking me to read it again and again and I think mostly for the story (the flying) but I like it too!

A wonderfully creative book. The artwork comes alive in her book! It was the perfect present for the end of the year in my granddaughter's 1st grade class!

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