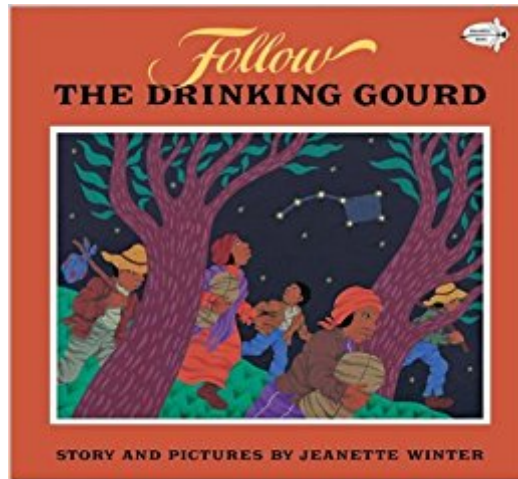




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Follow The Drinking Gourd (Dragonfly Books)



Synopsis

Illus. in full color. "Winter's story begins with a peg-leg sailor who aids slaves on their escape on the Underground Railroad. While working for plantation owners, Peg Leg Joe teaches the slaves a song about the drinking gourd (the Big Dipper). A couple, their son, and two others make their escape by following the song's directions. Rich paintings interpret the strong story in a clean, primitive style enhanced by bold colors. The rhythmic compositions have an energetic presence that's compelling. A fine rendering of history in picturebook format."--(starred) Booklist.Ã Â Ã Â

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 630L (What's this?)

Series: Dragonfly Books

Paperback: 48 pages

Publisher: Dragonfly Books; Reprint edition (January 15, 1992)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0679819975

ISBN-13: 978-0679819974

Product Dimensions: 10 x 0.2 x 10.9 inches

Shipping Weight: 8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars 59 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #39,461 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #55 inÃ Â Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Historical Fiction > United States > 1800s #116 inÃ Â Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Multicultural Stories > African-American

Age Range: 3 - 7 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 2

Customer Reviews

PreSchool-Grade 2-- Winter's picture book relates the story of an old white sailor called "Peg Leg Joe" who went from plantation to plantation in the pre-Civil War south, teaching enslaved blacks a folksong that he wrote, the lyrics of which held directions for following the Underground Railroad to freedom. This particular story focuses on the journey of one group of runaways who travel according to the directions of the song to reach the Ohio River, where Peg Leg Joe himself is waiting with a boat. Dramatic full-color paintings and a simple text make this part of U.S. history accessible to young readers. However, its emphasis on the role that white people played in the black flight to freedom make it an unbalanced introduction. "Joe had a plan" appears repeatedly in the text,

making it sound as though the idea of escape and freedom originated with him, rather than with the people who were living the horror of slavery. Throughout the story, the people who are escaping are depicted as being wholly dependent on the elements and on the actions of benevolent whites, rather than on their own thoughts, ideas, and decisions. This notion is reinforced in picture after picture, as the faces of the five blacks are wide-eyed with fear while they look for the next sign from Joe to tell them what to do. They never show the expressions of courage and determination that mark the faces of the white characters in this book. Follow the Drinking Gourd is aptly titled in that it presents a history of black Americans as followers, rather than as leaders. --Kathleen T. Horning, Madison Public Library, Wis. Copyright 1989 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

“A fine rendering of history in picture book format.”
Starred “An extraordinary and inspiring tribute to a unique part of African-American history.”
“The artist’s hauntingly muted pictures propel the story forward and make it memorable.”
“Washington Post Book World

Excellent quality, price and delivery was early, too! Beautiful artwork!

Excellent reading for our grandchildren

During the time of slavery in the United States, many slaves were able to escape and find their way north to freedom by following the Drinking Gourd--Big Dipper. As the note at the beginning of this historical children’s book tells, slaves learned a folk song entitled "Follow the Drinking Gourd". Masters and overseers thought the song harmless, though nonsensical. The song actually embedded directions on how to escape from the South into freedom in the North. I had known all of this before reading FOLLOW THE DRINKING GOURD. What I didn’t know was about legendary Underground Railroad conductor, Peg Leg Joe. Using the lyrics of the song "Follow the Drinking Gourd" and the legend of Peg Leg Joe, Winter crafts a short tale about a slave family that follows the directions of the song that Joe teaches them to escape to freedom next spring. Accompanying the text are Winter’s earth-toned illustrations displaying the family’s escape and the dangers they endure on their journey. The last page of the book contains the lyrics and music to the folk song "Following the Drinking Gourd." FOLLOW THE DRINKING GOURD is an excellent tool in introducing

children to the Underground Railroad. It's also a good story in teaching astronomy classes to illustrate how the stars have been used for different purposes throughout time.

My 5 year old grandson liked this book.

This is one of my favorite stories so when I misplaced my copy, I immediately got another one. My mother was a first grade teacher and she used to read it to her pupils. Now that she has dementia, I use it to help her maintain her vocabulary. When she's restless, this is a great story to get her settled. She loves the story and the richly colored illustrations.

Great book

This book is beautifully written and illustrated. I didn't expect that. It was in great shape and arrived on time

I love this story as a supplement my elementary music curriculum when teaching students about code songs and how slaves found ways to escape via the Underground Railroad. The book also includes the music at the end of the story.

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