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I, Too, Am America by Langston Hughes Illustrated by Bryan Collier

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Author: Hughes, Langston

Title: *I, Too, Am America*

Illustrator: Collier, Bryan

Year of Publication: 2012

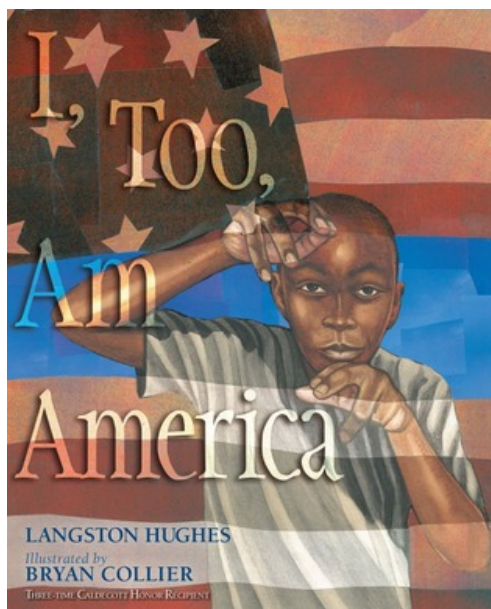
Publisher: Simon & Schuster

ISBN: 9781442420083

Number of pages: 40

Rating: Excellent

Reading/Interest Level: Primary; Intermediate



Keywords: Children's Books; Picture Books; African American Authors; Poetry; Civil Rights

Review:

The words of Langston Hughes' iconic poem, "I, Too," are brought to life in this illustrated children's book with artwork from award-winning illustrator Bryan Collier. Collier uses a combination of vintage and modern imagery to depict the daily lives of African Americans both today and in the early 1900s, showing how far America has come in reaching the dream of equality Hughes paints in his visionary poem.

"I, Too, Am America" features colorful, dynamic illustrations—some paired with the succinct, powerful lines of Hughes' poem, and some that stand alone. Collier's illustrations are more modern than traditional, and while they showcase the contrast between old and new attitudes toward African Americans in the United States, some illustrations are too abstract for young readers to appreciate. Langston Hughes' poem is relatively brief, and the words are simple, but they will be best understood by older primary and intermediate readers with a background knowledge of civil rights issues in the United States. Teachers will find the book well-suited for reading aloud to the class for Poetry Month or Black History Month.

Reviewer: Lauren Johnson

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