



2018

# The Journey of Little Charlie

Taylor Harris

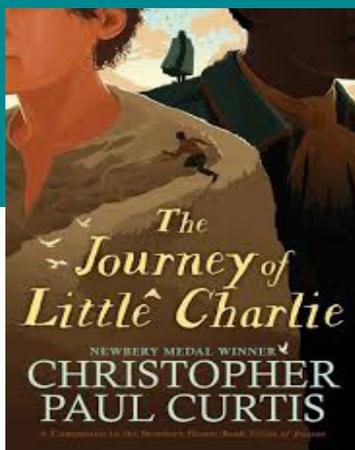
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## Book Review

# The Journey of Little Charlie

### Author

Christopher Paul Curtis

### Illustrator

### Reviewer

Taylor Harris

### Rating

Excellent

### Level

Intermediate

### Pages

234

### Year

2018

### Publisher

Scholastic Press

### ISBN

9780545156660

After a freak accident kills his Pa, Charlie Bobo and his mother are about to be driven off because they can't pay their dues incurred by sharecropping. An evil slave catcher, Cap'n Buck, comes to collect the debts and because they can't pay, he takes Little Charlie on an expedition to catch and return some slaves. Little Charlie does as he's asked, though his heart gets heavy as the shame and guilt builds. As they are trying to bring a slave boy back from Canada, a mob gathers and the boy is able to get free. Cap'n Buck ends up dead, leaving Charlie to do the work alone. His conscience finally weighs out and he sets the former slaves free, helping them get to Canada.

Written in a Southern dialect, readers can truly hear the voice of young Charlie Bobo and get a glimpse into the terrors that existed with slavery. Curtis does a great job developing the character of Charlie Bobo and keeping him realistic to the time and setting that he appears in. Often in historical fiction, authors project modern thinking onto characters living in the past; however, in this book, Charlie maintains integrity with his time. In that way, character development and historical integrity were good. A downside of the historical integrity is that because of the terribleness of slavery, some of the punishments and threats in the book can be pretty graphic. Overall, it is a good book that shows at least one family's triumph over slavery because of a boy hero that readers come to know very well.

\*Contains moderate violence and mild language.