



2019

Back of the Bus

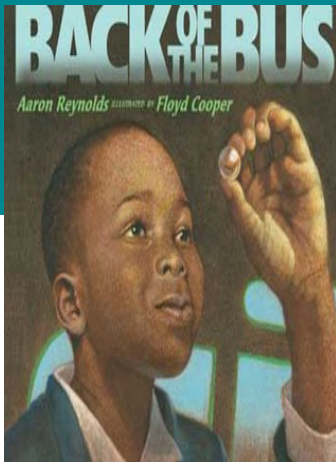
Hannah Webb

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Book Review

Back of the Bus

Author

Aaron Reynolds

Illustrator

Floyd Cooper

Reviewer

Hannah Webb

Rating

Outstanding

Level

Preschool, Primary

What starts out as a regular commute for a mother and son duo becomes a memorable event when Mrs. Parks from the tailor shop refuses to give up her bus seat to a white man. The boy and his mother witness this historic event in civil rights history as the brave Rosa Parks is escorted out of the bus by a police officer. As the boy sees her bravery and history is made, he goes from feeling shaky and afraid to strong and hopeful about the future.

The unique perspective of this young boy is one the book's' greatest strengths. Playful yet meaningful phrases like "all crammed like lima beans" and "lightning storm eyes" bring a sense of childlike wonder. Throughout the book, the boy is playing with a brown tiger's eye marble that his mother repeatedly tells him to keep tucked away. After being inspired by Mrs. Park's act of courage, the boy takes the marble out of his pocket and he smiles because it doesn't have to hide anymore. This metaphor of the brown marble brings added meaning to the book and the perspective of the boy making sense of this event in his innocent way. This book causes the reader to think of this important historic event from the eyes of those who not only witnessed it but those who found strength from it.

Pages

32

Year

2013

Publisher

Puffin Books

ISBN

9780147510587