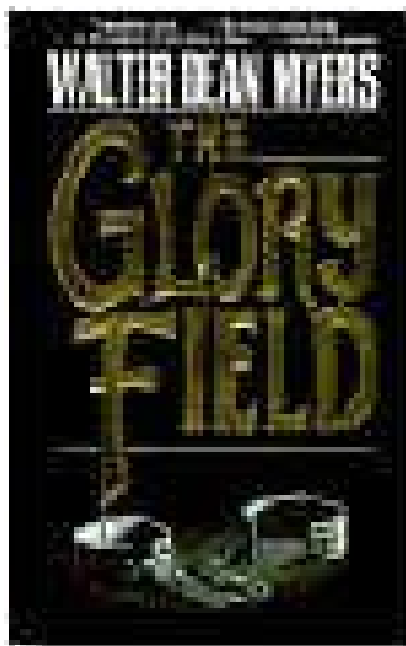




The Glory Field

Walter Dean Myers

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The Glory Field Walter Dean Myers

An exciting, eye-catching repackaged of acclaimed author Walter Dean Myers' bestselling paperbacks, to coincide with the publication of *SUNRISE OVER FALLUJA* in hardcover.

"Those shackles didn't rob us of being black, son, they robbed us of being human."

This is the story of one family. A family whose history saw its first ancestor captured, shackled, and brought to this country from Africa. A family who can still see remnants of the shackles that held some of its members captive -- even today. It is a story of pride, determination, struggle, and love. And of the piece of the land that holds them together throughout it all.

The Glory Field Details

Date : Published January 1st 1996 by Scholastic (first published January 1994)

ISBN : 9780590458986

Author : Walter Dean Myers

Format : Paperback 375 pages

Genre : Historical, Historical Fiction, Young Adult, Fiction, Cultural, African American, Academic, School

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From Reader Review The Glory Field for online ebook

Steven says

I read this book for English class and ended up really enjoying it! The book is the story of the Lewis family, and their struggles through slavery and racism. I like how it takes you from the first generation when slavery was just starting up in the 1700's, through the late 1800's, 1930's, the civil rights movement in the 60's, and eventually to the modern day. Each section follows a further generation of the family, organized by dates (April 1880, July 1963, etc.) but usually you will see characters from previous chapters, but they are now older. All in all, a very interesting and fun book.

?? X Aesthetic Indelible ?A??e?? says

This is what some others call a **never again** book. It isn't the worst, but it definitely isn't good. As soon as you start getting wrapped up, and think your okay with reading this they change to another decade. Here's the chapters:

July 1753, page three

March 1864 page seven

April 1900 page forty-one

May 1930 page seventy-seven

January 1964 page one hundred fifteen

August 1994 page one hundred fifty-nine

Two hundred, the end.

That itself is completely disturbing. I have to read this for language arts, this is fucking language arts, **not** history. And don't get me started on trying to explain how I feel about the writing. He says the most worthless shit I have ever heard, the writing font size is probably the smallest I've ever seen. Trying to squeeze every fricking bit that he can onto a small page. **Not working**. I mean it was great in the beginning until he decided to go ahead another decade, and the adorable kid is dead, and we know NOTHING of how he died, because we are struggling to finish this, I have to constantly keep reading back and forth to see what the heck is going on. And then my mom says. "Go watch the movie, it's great! The story is magical!"

First off: There is a **MOVIE**? I mean I like history, and all that it is but come on, fucking come on. I can barely even **FINISH** the BOOK. And secondly, you would have your daughter see the movie, instead of reading the story?! What kind of parenting is that, I could fail the test because of that! OH and I have to do an essay on why I loved the book, and what difficult choice I have made.

I just want this book away from me forever, after this test, I am so **done** with reading books by Walter Dean Myers. Sorry! Just get it off of my shelf, it doesn't deserve to be there.

Well, that is what I think of this book, seems like a lot of hatred, but that is not what was intended, I'm just very upset with this book, I had high expectations.

Laura says

I had a difficult time deciding whether or not I wanted to rate this as historical fiction. Since the majority of the book takes place before my students were born, I decided that *they* would consider it historical fiction and so should I.

I read *The Glory Field* as part of my classes' author study of Walter Dean Myers. I don't know what in particular drew me to this particular book out of all the choices available. I think I just liked the title.

I had a difficult time following the timeline and family members. The family tree really helped. Should I ever teach it, I think I will incorporate lessons on genealogy.

The full circle of the Glory Field and the shackles brought tears to my eyes. The family is so.... human! No one is perfect; they have the human foibles I could identify with. I grokked it when the family helped Shep with words of encouragement and reminding him one step at a time. Lately, my life has been like that: one day at a time.

I think I particularly liked the reference to babies as "vessel[s] of hope." There's such a quiet dignity to that phrase. There's a lot of dignity in the Lewis family.

Maya says

This book is HORRIBLE. Horrible with a capitol "H"! It is a very long book that goes on and on and on about the same thing. There is no action what-so-ever, and is quite boring. I feel bad for any other student who had to read this book. On top of it all, every 80 pages, the setting, main character, and time period changed, just to confuse you. I would not recommend this book to anyone. But, if I HAD to recommend "The Glory Field" to anyone, I would to the older aged people, because they may appreciate this novel more than I did.

Monique says

Me and Mr. Walter Dean Myers—ugh we have such a tortured reading relationship..I love his books, have a library fairly well stocked with his literary cannon as he writes for my audience of beautiful young black and brown children and their issues—however I struggle with his writing style..Its not easy or fluid to me..He is challenging, kinda disjointed in his sequencing and asks a lot of you to finish his stories..He is not for every reader and I find myself putting his books down to refocus a lot but he is rewarding overall and I love his plots..Alright Myers rant over as this is like my fourth book by him LOL..so on to the review..

"It don't make a difference how old you are if you can't read," Miss Julia said. "Reading makes your mind mature. So if you don't read then your body gets stronger but your mind doesn't." (pg. 26-27)

Ambitiously telling the story of a plot of land and a family from 1753 to 1994—the descendants, the slave masters, the rebellious, the prideful—just an epic that I feel focused a lot on some characters more than other—case in point the first character Muhammed Bilal who is an eleven year old African taken savagely from his homeland and kept chained underneath a ship and sold away..though he only gets a mere eight

pages and then we are in 1834 and he is mentioned constantly as a guiding force and a strong presence though that is never explained or shown..(its like you are reading what the author thinks you already know all the time and you never got the background information so you are a step behind..sigh)... You then meet descendants in the 1900s that go through a complex rescue of a missing boy by ship, another scenario of a girl in 1930s Chicago who wants to go to college and this side plot of her life and the church (could have been edited for sure) and I think this for sure the longest story that is multifaceted and shows so many forms of racism—

“It was what so many whites expected of Negroes; that one day they would show up and announce that they were pregnant or call to say they had been arrested (Pg. 181)

You finally leave that story for 1964 and a black basketball player in South Carolina trying to get into a white University and dealing with the politics and racial stress of two leaders Martin Luther King Jr. and Malcolm X telling black people how to live their lives... The book ends with a beautiful passage on shackles and 1994 returning full circle to the people and events that shaped the lives of each generation.

“He lifted the shackles, felt their weight, ran his fingers along the smoothness of the well-worn iron. He even thought about putting them around his ankles, but knew that it would never be the same. It wasn’t his to experience only his to know about, to imagine how hard it had been. The weight of the shackles gave substance to all the people who had worn them. They gave weight, even to those who had been broken by them, or by the invisible shackles they have found along their way.”(Pg 374)

This book has been described as an epic like *Roots* but for a younger audience however I did not find this an easy read..its all over the place, filled with unrelated people and events and does not make an easy reading experience at all..Having read Alex Haley’s brilliant work *Roots* as a child and adult (definitely a reread one day) I can say it really follows a family more fluidly and has cohesive narrative qualities I felt this was lacking-though I do appreciate all the moments in history this book encompasses and addressed..ugh it was just hard reading! Good not great and I will give him like one more book then part ways with the great and hard to read Mr. Myers..whew loving my Black History binge!

Scott Rhee says

In a brief 375 pages, Walter Dean Myers, in his novel "The Glory Field", covers roughly 250 years in the history of a black family, spanning multiple generations. Starting with the abduction of an 11-year-old boy named Muhammad Bilal off the coast of West Africa in 1753, the novel follows key events in the lives of the progeny of Muhammad, from slavery to the Civil War to Reconstruction to the Civil Rights Movement to present day (or 1994, which is when the book was published).

A symbolic family totem that manifests itself throughout the book, Muhammad's iron shackles that the slave traders used to restrain the slaves on board the slave ships is used to represent the struggles that the family faced in the past, the metaphoric shackles that continue to keep them down in the present, and the sense of freedom and liberation that is constantly within grasp in the future.

Also at the heart of the book is the titular Glory Field, the piece of land located on Curry Island, South Carolina that has been the home for the Lewis family. Even when most of the family members have gone off to find their own paths throughout the country, Glory Field is where the family members return to find fellowship, safety, and a sense of strength to help them continue on in the struggles of the rest of the world.

Myers, a prolific author who has written over 50 best-selling books, most of them targeted to the young adult markets, has written a beautiful and powerful epic about the history of black people in the United States. Myers clearly understands that learning history comes not from dry textbooks of dates and names and important events but from being able to relate to the everyday people who have been impacted by history as

it unfolds.

This is why "The Glory Field" is such a powerful book. Myers is a master of the writing adage, "Show, don't tell".

Rather than being told that life as a slave on a Southern plantation---regardless of how kind the plantation owners were---was completely dehumanizing, we are shown, through the eyes of runaways Joshua, Lem, and Lizzy Lewis in 1864, how cruel and inhumane the system was. We see it through the whippings and the torturous working in the fields in stiflingly hot weather. We see it in the renewed hope of the young men as they quickly join up with a Union regiment, while Lizzy goes to work as a regiment nurse.

Rather than being told how racist and unfair Southern whites acted toward blacks---even as they truly believed they were good Christian people---we see, through the eyes of Elijah Lewis in 1900, how hypocritical whites were, after he saves the life of a young white boy during a hurricane. Rather than showing gratitude, members of the local Klu Klux Klan attempt to lynch him, because he accepted reward money that some whites in town felt he should not have received. He escapes, and moves to Chicago, embodying the Great Migration.

Rather than being told how much the system--and the world---was dominated by white culture, we see, through the eyes of Luvenia Lewis in 1930, how unfairly slanted opportunities for education and jobs were toward whites and against blacks as she loses a much-needed job based not on her performance but because of a nasty joke played on her by a fellow white employee. We see the extra work and effort she must put forth just to attain a "normal" livelihood that white people are simply born into and take for granted.

Rather than being told how awful segregation was, we see, through the eyes of Tommy Lewis, how a system that allows "coloreds-only" hospitals, bus seating, and diners can be so unjust that it goes against every ideal of "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness" upon which this country was supposedly founded.

Rather than being told the legacy of racial self-loathing and the effects of over 200 years of oppression, we see, through the eyes of Malcolm Lewis, how his cousin, Shep, is wasting his potential through the slow suicide of crack addiction.

"The Glory Field" is that rare find: a novel that brings history to life and gives us an honest, eye-opening look at what life was like for the people in different eras. Undoubtedly, this would make excellent supplementary reading for students of middle school or high school age who are studying American history.

Audra says

It's tough for me to give this book only three stars. The main thing that was disruptive to me was how the time period changed with no real resolution to each of the characters before the year shifted. It started in the 1700s and ended in 1994, all in the span of 300~ pages. That made it a little confusing. He does tie it all together in the end so that you can see what happened to everyone. I'm wondering if the author did that on purpose? We tend to lose track of family members over time but then catch up at family reunions. So maybe the abrupt shift in time was symbolic? I don't know.

I also wish that the land had been more in the forefront of the story. It was mentioned here and there as more of a passing thing rather than something that the story centers around, which is misleading based on the book blurb.

There were some really great lines tucked away in the book and some powerful symbolism. But all in all, this book was just mediocre for me. I didn't hate it, but I didn't love it either.

Maesha M. says

Abt the lives of african americans from the past to the present....How african american people went through alot of things to overcome their freedom. It starts from the edge of slavery (when a girl escapes with her two freinds despite the danger ahead.) all the way up to the present. The book is filled with lots of emotions and at the begining when lem died, I felt so sad and so on to the end. anyone cud read this book bcuz it is awsum for any age grup, if u can read.

Lindsay Wilcox says

This was a very long book, but ultimately a good book. I found that, as the subject matter lightened and became more contemporary to present day, the writing became lighter and more humorous. I didn't exactly expect Myers to make jokes about slave ships, but I laughed more frequently in the later decades. I enjoyed the connections between decades as characters reappeared and themes persisted. After so very many pages, I was satisfied, but I wonder if this family saga needed to be quite so long.

Sonya Cabral says

i found that the book was very entertaining, but after a while of reading the book it got boring and a bit confusing. For example in this book it goes by generations of the family, in the beginning it was fine because it made sense and you already knew the characters. But when i started reading chapter four i got a bit confused because they introduced new characters which i found a bit confusing but continued to read the book. As time passed by i found the book was getting boring and would just end up almost falling asleep while reading the book. i would recommend this book to people that like reading historical fiction books. i give this book a 3 out of 5 stars.

Kathryn says

I am a big fan of Walter Dean Myers because I think that he writes in a style that is real and easy for teens to relate to. However, this book is different from some of his others. It is the story of an African-American family told in the first person by each of its narrators from their time as slaves in the later 1700's to the mid-nineties. Some people equate it to Roots. The novel shows the struggle and strength of the family over the generations. It ties into many of the key historical events of the period where the characters live from slavery, to the great migration, to the civil rights movement, and even a struggle with drugs in the present day scenario. It was a summer reading book for me before my freshman year of high school.

I attempted to use this book (because of the symbolism that is easy to find/understand/explain in shackles) as well as the powerful themes. My high schoolers did not enjoy it as much as a I hoped, but I still think it is a good book.

Art says

Interesting life of a family of former slaves and what takes place w/each generation.

Brings to light again why the Election of Mr. Obama was so important in this years election.

I am a WASP, however w/50%Irish/Scot background and other half being German, these groups were slandered against but not at the level of African-Americans.

Mr. Myers brings forth this message of hope for each generation from the Civil War to present in the Lewis family.

Julie Pfeiffer says

I really struggled getting into this book. If it hadn't been assigned for my field experience I probably would never had finished it. The story starts back in 1743 with the first descendant of the Lewis family, Muhammed, being captured and brought to American to be a slave. The book is made up of five shorter chronological stories that are about the descendants of Muhammed. The history of the family and a piece of land in South Carolina called "The Glory Field," tie the stories together. It is interesting to see the progress and strength the characters have. The stories are a bit detached and I think this book would be best appreciated with classroom instruction. If I had to teach this book, I would do it in a jigsaw manner - have the class divide up, read and then report on the stories.

Leslie says

Great book for young adults. I enjoyed the portrayal of people fighting for freedom, dignity, and their identities throughout history. This would be a great way to teach my students about experiences that are foreign to most of them. I think literature is so helpful in teaching empathy and history, and this book is great for that.

Scott says

this book seems to have not keep my attention through out the reading
