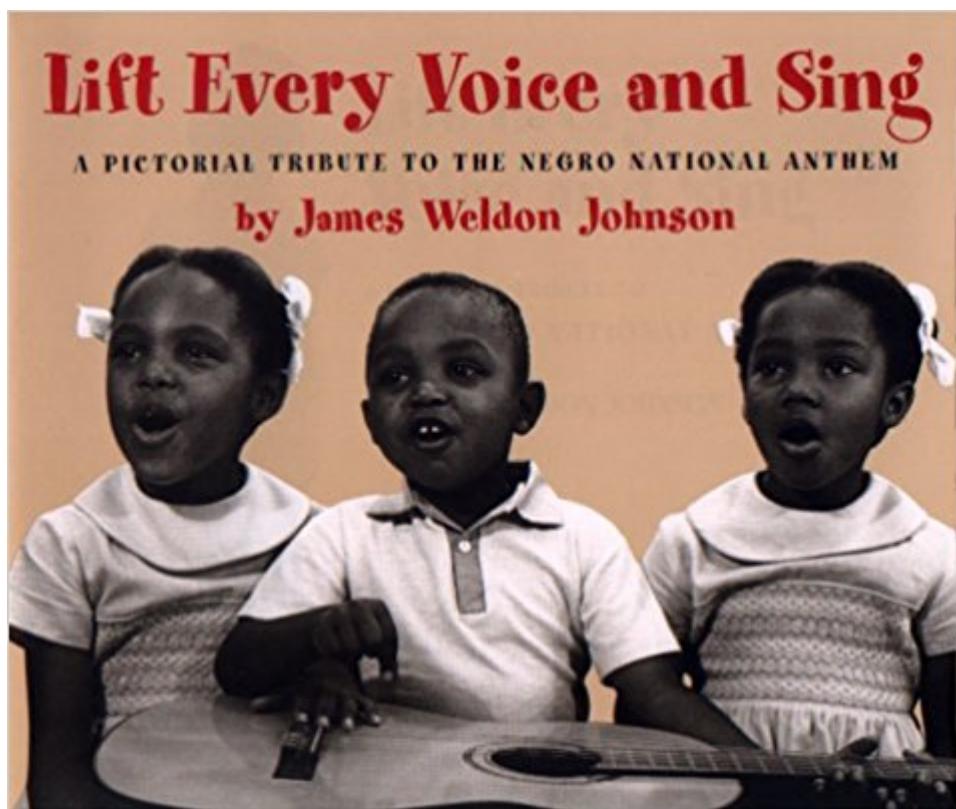


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Lift Every Voice And Sing: A Pictorial Tribute To The Negro National Anthem



Synopsis

Black-and-white photographs accompany this version of the song that has come to be considered the African American national anthem.

Book Information

Hardcover: 32 pages

Publisher: Jump At The Sun (December 25, 2000)

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Age Range: 4 and up

Grade Level: Preschool and up

Customer Reviews

In honor of this song's centennial anniversary, this volume collects 22 often stirring black-and-white archival photographs to illustrate Johnson's powerful lyrics, set to music by his brother, John Rosamond Johnson. Smith's rather spotty introduction offers a brief biographical sketch of the siblings and outlines the genesis of the song (though it is the back jacket flap that suggests that James W. Johnson was asked by the Florida high school where he served as principal to compose the song for a celebration of Abraham Lincoln's birthday). Two decades later, in 1920, the NAACP proclaimed the composition "The Negro National Anthem." Crisply reproduced photographs ranging from the sobering to the uplifting correspond to the words of the anthem. "Out from the gloomy past,/ Till now we stand at last/ Where the white gleam/ of our bright star is cast" shows an enchanting toddler girl in a white wool coat and matching hat holding hands with two adults among a crowd. A photograph of Martin Luther King Jr.'s "I Have a Dream" speech is paired with "Lest our feet stray from the places,/ Our God, where we met Thee...." Other memorable shots include the scarred back of a captive man ("Stony the road we trod,/ Bitter the chastening rod"), an exhausted

boy cotton-picker asleep in the fields and a girl learning to read. Unfortunately, though the photos are credited, they neither include the year nor the context in which they were taken. The melody line concludes the book, and the many children featured in the photographs will draw a young audience into this affecting volume. All ages. (Jan.) Copyright 2000 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Kindergarten-Grade 8-A beautiful collection of black-and-white photographs are matched with the words of the song, which was composed in 1900 by James Weldon Johnson and John Rosamond Johnson for a special celebration of Abraham Lincoln's birthday. The 22 archival photographs bring readers face-to-face with the power, strength, and dignity of a people. A back lashed with ugly scars; a child asleep on a sack of cotton; a pair of worn, weathered hands; three little girls singing in church; a line of marchers against a cloudy sky-these powerful images have an emotional appeal that transcends ethnic background. This stunning blend of poetry and visual images speaks to the human spirit. Eunice Weech, M. L. King Elementary School, Urbana, IL Copyright 2001 Reed Business Information, Inc.

When I was in high school, I made a point of memorizing the words of all three verses of "Lift Every Voice and Sing". We must never forget our history, and be ever joyful of the opportunities of today and tomorrow. If you have never heard this song before, you can find the 1st and 3rd verses sung on the 2nd CD in the 3 CD set "100 Best Loved Hymns". The choir is likely an all-white choir, and I think the 2nd verse was just too painful for them to sing. However, we should remember the pain of American slavery, and vow to never let such ugliness occur again. We must know our history in order to move forward as a nation.

I loved this book!

Very Good

This book was absolutely perfect.

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