

## **The People Could Fly**

**Virginia Hamilton**

**Reviewed by: Isabella, 14**

**Star Teen Book Reviewer of Be The Star You Are! Charity**

The People Could fly is a great book that educates about the struggles of slavery and the path to freedom. The book talks about how Africans used to have wings that they were able to fly on, and that there was a type of magic some of them had. All until slavery happened. The Africans became miserable and weren't able to use their wings anymore. Those who knew about the magic they once had kept it a secret. There was a man who was still able to fly named Toby. A woman who once had wings carried her baby on her back. The baby being on her back caused her to not be able to work as well as she used to, and their master would beat them both. While she was out in the field, she was stuck on the ground and wasn't able to get up. She told Toby that she needed to leave that place soon, and he whispered the magic words to her, lifting her off of the ground and giving her wings again. She flew away. The next day, people were fainting in the field from being hot, and Toby let them know the magic words, and they all began to fly away.

I personally liked this story a lot! It was a well written and illustrated book about freedom. I really liked the analogy of wings representing freedom. Africans started with freedom and magic, and slavery took that away from them, but once they were able to escape, they were also able to grow their wings back and fly away. I also liked how Toby's character never lost his magic, and helped spread it to everyone else to save them.

I'd recommend this story to anyone ages 10 and up! It would also make a great gift for anyone, and it can help educate and demonstrate to people the topic of freedom for Africans. The author uses good analogies to represent freedom and hope for the people.

### **Recommended Titles:**

Henry's Freedom Box by Ellen Levine

Freedom Over Me by Ashley Bryan

Brick by Brick by Charles R. Smith