

Between the World And Me

By Author, Ta-Nehisi Coates

Reviewed by: Shrayaa Jayapal, 16

Star Teen Book Reviewer of Be the Star You Are! Charity

www.bethestaryouare.org

This non-fiction title is written directly to the author's fifteen year old son, Samori. It discusses in great detail the difficulties of growing up as a black man in this country and the fears parents have for their children. The novel includes many important themes such as the American dream and enslavement as a foundation, autonomy, the destruction of black bodies, and how struggling in these aspects built up black culture and values.

Between the World and Me is a nonfiction novel. Written in three different parts, the book doesn't specifically have a narrative, but rather is a collection of the father's thoughts on his life and various events that had occurred. He describes his childhood, growing up in West Baltimore and eventually attending Howard University. The brutal police murder of Prince Jones served as a turning point in the novel where the author begins to write about the horrors of police brutality.

I would recommend this book to anyone over 13. However the format, not being in a narrative format might be confusing or boring to people who prefer narratives. This novel would be a great gift but can also be enjoyed borrowed from the library. Overall, this novel was an extremely interesting read. I would even argue, it is essential to read. Listening to a person of color discuss their unique experience in life was a very fulfilling experience.

Recommended Titles:

Born a Crime by Trevor Noah

The Girl with the Louding Voice by Abi Daré

The Hate U Give by Angie Thomas