

*Unspoken: A Story From The Underground Railroad*

Henry Cole

Reviewed by: Reginald Elzey

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

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The author of this book chose to convey their message without words, which can be tough, especially for a book about such a touchy subject. However I found that because there were no words in the story, the book gave the ability for the reader to use their imagination more. Because there are no words, it is easy for this to be a classroom book and allow interpretation of its theme and message. The historical fiction element allows young children to put themselves back in time, and imagine what it was like to live in a different time. The story also allows room for there to be discussion of tolerance and acceptance, which is something that when taught at a young age, can be a guide to a newer generation.

Set in the times of the Civil War, a young girl is shocked to find a runaway slave in her parents Corn Crop. At first, the young girl is frightened, and runs away. Soon though, her conscious catches up with her, and she begins to befriend the runaway slave. The young girl begins to leave food for the slave, and ultimately keep the secret. After the slave leaves to continue the journey to freedom, the girl is given a gift, and ultimately is given the gift of compassion.

This book shows children what it is like to be a compassionate person in this world. They will ultimately be the adults of this world one day, and if kids today can look back and see how far our society has come in terms of tolerance, they can become great leaders. I would imagine that this book, if read in class, can be a great discussion starter. This would be a book that a teacher would read while teaching the Civil War. The drawings and visual components of this book really do allow the reader to make their own dialogue.