



Roll of thunder, hear my cry: By Mildred D. Taylor (Exploring literature)

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About the Author: *"I do not know how old I was when the daydreams became more than that, and I decided to write them down, but by the time I entered high school, I was confident that I would one day be a writer."* - Mildred D. Taylor

Newbery Award-winning author, Mildred D. Taylor, was born in Jackson, Mississippi, and grew up in Toledo, Ohio. After graduating from the University of Toledo, she spent two years in Ethiopia with the Peace Corps teaching English and history. Returning to the United States, Ms. Taylor entered the University of Colorado's School of Journalism, from which she received her Master of Arts degree. As a member of the Black Student Alliance, she worked with students and University officials in structuring a Black Studies program at the University. She currently lives in Colorado.

"From as far back as I can remember, my father taught me a different history from the one I learned in school. By the fireside in our Ohio home and in Mississippi, where I was born and where my father's family had lived since the days of slavery, I had heard about our past. It was not an organized history beginning in a certain year, but one told through stories--stories about great-grandparents and aunts and uncles and others that stretched back through the years of slavery and beyond. It was a history of ordinary people, some brave, some not so brave, but basically people who had done nothing more spectacular than survive in a society designed for their destruction."

Roll of thunder, hear my cry: By Mildred D. Taylor (Exploring literature) Details

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Mark Day says

This is a poignant yet uplifting story that explores racism from the vantage point of a young black girl in Mississippi during the Great Depression. The pacing and plot development in this book are very good. The author skillfully crafted a tale contrasting weakness and strength; ignorance and enlightenment and good vs. evil. The only short-coming of this novel is a predictable denouement.

Audrey says

This Newbery winner takes place right after black people were free. They were supposed to have the same rights as the whites but as you will see in the book you will see all the inequalities they had to live with. The story is told the a child's perspective, as they go to and from school they walk to school while the white kids go to ride a bus. Then the white folks of the town always committed heinous crimes against the blacks and never got punished. Even though they owned their own land they still struggled on a day to day basis. Things got harder for them when their father got hurt by the white towns people. But they were able to surpass all their difficulties and live their daily lives.

This book is an easy read but it is written with a southern accent. So this book can be used to talk about how books and the different times change how they are written. The book also has a huge historical issues in it and would be a great book to use to describe to students about how kids suffered back then especially the colored ones.

Rachel Meyers says

A little slow starting, but I found it very poignant. I couldn't find the actual book on good reads and so this isn't the real book. I think it would make a good book group selection.

Madison Byzewski says

Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry is an excellent and well-written story about the Logan family and their struggle to keep the land that they have worked hard for. This novel is set in the 1930's when discrimination was in full swing. Cassie Logan is the main character that lives on 400 acres of land with her three brothers, mother, father, and grandmother. The majority of the story is based on their land because it once belonged to a white family, the Grangers, therefore it brings a lot of controversy into the story. Diversity is shown when trouble strikes and racial tensions get thrown into the mix and become more and more of a problem as the story goes on. The Grangers do everything in their power to try and get their land back, despite what might be a wrongful action. A strength that I noticed was the detailed writing; it made me feel more involved in the story than normal. I felt as if I was watching a movie because the writer did so well with providing a good description of the story. A weakness that I noticed was the popular use of the "n-word". I think that because this is a young adult book, the "n-word" should've been avoided as much as possible, although I understand that the author's intentions were mainly to convey realistic descriptions rather than cause harm to anyone.

Mot DK Thongwarn says

It was written base on a historical theme. It shows conflicts between African-American and white people. The fight that all people have to go through at that time made me learn many thing I have never know before.

Danielle says

The Logan family works hard to keep the small piece of farmland they own. They endure many racial injustices. The children are harassed by a school bus full of white children. The Wallace boys burn some local black men, killing one, and so the Logan family begins a boycott of their store. When Stacey, their oldest boy, gets in a fight with his best friend T. J. at the Wallace store, Mama decides to take a tour of the local community and urge people not to let their children go there and not to purchase goods there. However, many families have nowhere else to shop. The Logans offer to buy good for them in Vicksburg, and Mr. Jamison backs their credit. Meanwhile, Christmas comes, and both Uncle Hammer and Papa come home to join the family. Mama soon loses her teaching job, and other pressure is put on the Logan family. Other families who sharecrop Granger land are forced to return to the Wallace store. Papa's leg is broken during a violent attack he suffers while trying to make a trip to Vicksburg. Only the brute strength of L. T., a man Papa brings home to help work and defend the farm, drives away the attackers. Soon, Granger forces the Logans to pay up on a loan they once took out from the bank. Uncle Hammer has to sell his car in order to make the payment. Meanwhile, T. J. has becomes a known thief, and he hangs out with two trouble-making White teenagers, Melvin and R. W.. One day, they bring him along on a murderous rampage and manage to frame him. Papa and L. T. go to stop the lynching that follows. Almost as soon as they leave, however, the cotton field catches fire. The lynch mob and the local black farmers band together in order to stop the fire. It turns out that Papa started the fire in order to stop the lynching.

I would recommend this book for an advanced age group because the theme may be hard to understand. This would be a great book to teach with history.

The events in the book are consistent with the appropriate time period. The book is set in Mississippi in 1933 during the Great Depression when a lot of people were poor. The Logan family struggles with money and the selling of their crops. The setting is integral to the story and evokes a vivid historical time consistent with the historical evidence. If the book was not set in the south, then many of the racial problems would not be appropriate. However African Americans in the south were not respected and were treated unfairly. The characters are well developed with feelings, values, and behavior that reflect the historical period. The theme echos larger historical concerns such as the Great Depression and lynchings.

This book should be read! There was always another twist to the book. You really wanted to see the Logan family thrive. This book is touching and teaches the value of having family. I enjoyed reading this book and would recommend to any history buff.

707 Maya says

This book is about black people like 40 years after slavery and how this family with four kids live and what they can and can't do thanks to jay craws. It is amazing! LOVE THIS BOOK! It has a sad ending though. I

was totally in tears!

SittieCates says

I enjoyed reading this book because the characters were richly portrayed. I agree with its review that it's a powerful novel. It truly is. Written in a somber tone, it carries the weight of a world heavy with social injustice. It is a rich tale of survival.

(Review garnered from "SittieCates Loves Stories" at <http://sittiecateslovestories.blogspot...>)

Destiny Thompson says

I heard great things about this book but wasn't given the opportunity to read it yet, so I decided to give it a try. Once I started reading it, I couldn't put it down, I absolutely love books that give me insight in the lives of black Americans and what they went through. The book is about the Logan family who are black during the 1930's. Despite the racism Jeremy one of the characters is a white boy who goes against his own families values for this cause. The book gives many detailed examples of what happened in these times, though fictional it really opens your eyes. The book is very descriptive, and though some parts were gruesome and hard to read, it is so important to read them so you can have a better understanding of the horrific events that happened to blacks just because of their skin.

Lora says

Really an excellent story, well written. The time, the childhood, the characters, the scenery, all were very beautifully done. Very real, humane, truthful. The book relates a black girl and her family as she grows in awareness of the southern racism of the thirties. Along the way the story grows and grows as it observes hate and love vying for various hearts. There are moral tales within the greater story as children make choices and face consequences. The adults say more as they say little. There are other lessons in here, such as: don't talk too much- you don't know how the words you loose will be transmitted by others and you have no control over them by then. An important book that feels as if it is truthful and not just a book of agendas. It is a valuable reminder of what we must never forget. I want both of my children reading this, and my grandchildren, on down.

Ray says

Roll of thunder is a very interesting book. That not only brings you through the tough times of being a black person in 1933. The book keeps you attracted with many events that are surprising and interesting.

Andi says

Powerful, descriptive writing. The story is compelling, and the characters rich and true. Amazing book.

R. says

Best for 14+

Brings lots of tears even for those like me who hardly ever cry over books!

Ingrid says

This is really a powerful book that gives you a good idea of what life was like for African Americans living in the segregated south during the Depression. You get a really good sense of how difficult it was for African Americans to make a better life for themselves and live without being afraid.

Rachel Stewart says

The story is told through the perspective of young Cassie Logan who doesn't quite understand how she is supposed to act in a black and white segregated society. Most events we see through her eyes and her siblings and we come to reason within ourselves about the injustice and the cruelty that still existed half a century after the Civil War. The family has much to fight for to maintain a healthy balance and most of all to keep their land which gives them their freedom to live by their own means. Strong willed Cassie and her innocence give us hope that the family will survive and maintain their dignity even when they have to face the harsh realities of prejudice. Taylor does a good job of making other protagonists even among the children we find that TJ has problems of his own to inflict on them. It makes us wonder how hurt and betrayal and want to be accepted have an impact on young teenagers who are different than the rest. This book is for readers who want to understand how segregation and history connect with our views today, extending not only to young adult readers but adult readers as well.
