



Silent Thunder

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Despite the danger and their mama's terrible fear of being sold off or worse, two young slaves are determined to fulfill their dreams--to satisfy the "silent thunder", a desire that rumbles deep within each of them, refusing to be ignored.

Silent Thunder Details

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Author : Andrea Davis Pinkney

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From Reader Review Silent Thunder for online ebook

Gabriela Montes says

This book was pretty good. Although the language wasn't that descriptive, the images put into my head were pretty vivid. Both of the voices of the narrators were very strong, and everything was generally well-written. But, it could have been better. The fact that Gideon Parnell was Summer and Rosco's dad was not surprising at all. That might be just me, because I read Jefferson's Sons, another book about mixed-race enslaved children. In general, everything was actually quite predictable, but I saw some places where it could've been unpredictable. For example, it was always clear that Rosco was going to run away with Clem, even when he was doubting it. Some red herrings could've been put there, things that could've prevented him from going. Overall, this book wasn't bad at all, but it could have been even better.

Linda says

Good book about how slaves might have felt during the Civil War for children. The end seemed a little rushed and I thought the character of Summer seemed a bit babyish for how a true slave girl of her age would historically be.

Ann says

Told in alternating viewpoints between a brother and his younger sister, we understand slavery through their eyes. The "silent thunder" (deep desire that each person has inside) was a wonderful motif. These siblings' experiences of slavery was not as harrowing as in other slavery-related novels, so might be a good start for a younger and/or more sensitive reader.

Miss Amanda says

gr 5-9 211 pgs

1862 Virginia. Told in alternating chapters by 11 year old Summer and 13 year old Rosco, brother and sister who are slaves on the Parnell Plantation. Although set during the Civil War, the events of the war seem far away from the daily life of the characters. Each character hides a secret desire, a "silent thunder". Summer wants to learn to read despite her mother's worries of what will happen if she gets caught. Rosco longs for freedom. The story follows the characters as they struggle to obtain their "silent thunder".

Great story with a lot of information about life on the plantation.

Katie says

I loved how it wasn't too much civil warish. Has good characters and i like how it switches between 2 characters as a new chapter begins. it gives u a different angle and look at the story.

Rebecca Cordova says

This was a great book. The author got inspiration from civil war era photographs of unknown slave children. She wondered about who they were, what were their lives were like and she created the characters of Summer and Roscoe based on those unknown children.

The details of her writing enable you to be able picture the sights and sounds of the events and time period. It allows you to step back in time and relive a piece of American history.

Laura Hoyler says

Another civil war era book that I enjoyed- was sad to have it end when it did.

Terrie Landsberger says

The book I read was Silent Thunder. The author is Andrea Davis Pinkney. It was a historical fiction. It was a book about slaves. It was around the time that Abraham Lincoln Was president. The slaves where going threw some hard times. The main characters are Summer, Rosco, and Kit. I rated this book a 4 out of 5. I rated it that because The book was very interesting and exiting at times but at other times it was lazy and made me wont to fall asleep.

Broca says

This book is about slavery during the Civil War, but this story takes place in a plantation near the edge of Virginia.I really like this book because I really felt like I was in this time zone of history. Also the book is really descriptive of how the slaves feel and what they're doing like chores for the owners of the plantation.

This book is about a slave family that has their fair share of ups and downs but when Summer is learning letters from her older brother named Rosco she has to keep a secret from her mother because she doesn't agree about learning how to read because something bad could happen to her if she lets the world hear her secret, but when Rosco hears about the emancipation proclamation he and his friend Clem have to gain there freedom.The theme of this book is that it doesn't matter if your skin tone or how you look is different everyone in this world is equal.

I would recommend this book to people who love history , and people who like learning about slavery during the Civil War, why because most of this story talks about the lives of slaves and what they do for the owners of the plantation.

10-11 hannah childers says

Silent thunder wasn't a really good book. It was more of a diary and it switched back and forth to many times.

Laura Verret says

An interesting story. Young Roscoe and Summer Parnell are slaves on the Parnell plantation. As a birthday gift, Roscoe promises to teach Summer the coveted and forbidden knowledge of the alphabet - how to read and write. However, Summer's mother is concerned that Summer is not mature enough to keep her knowledge to herself (which, it turns out, she isn't) and will be sold down south. When Master Gideon suffers a stroke, will Summer's family be able to survive the extra pressures being placed on them? Will Summer finally learn how to read, and will she ever find out who her father was?

The reason I marked this book down a star was because of Thea, whom the slaves consider to be a seeress. She spouted off to some nonsense about broken dolls going to a place called 'Serendipity'. She also conducted worship services for the slaves. There were also a few deceptions.

Laurie D'ghent says

It was just okay for me, probably because I've read better. It is a children's book, so I appreciate that it was graphic or anything like that.

Jenny says

A wonderful historical fiction story about a brother, Roscoe, and sister, Summer who are slaves on a plantation. I listened to this on CD with my 7 and 9 year old, and as they didn't know much about slavery, they had a lot of questions. Summer and Roscoe live with their mama and Roscoe is secretly teaching Summer to read. This is her silent thunder...something she feels passionate about but must keep hidden as it is illegal for slaves to read. I really liked the description of what silent thunder is...and felt deeply saddened that each slave had to keep his/her silent thunder hidden. Summer and Roscoe are fortunate to have a relatively gentle master, so the book was not too graphic for my children but still showed some of the evils and injustices of slavery. My daughters and I all enjoyed this book, and they learned quite a bit from it.

Samary Morales says

This is a great book to have in the classrooms. It teaches the students a bit about slavery and how it was while back. The book is about a 12-year-old slave, Summer, and her 13-year-old brother, Roscoe. They find out from a wise old slave named Thea, that everyone has a "silent thunder." Summer wants to learn how to

read, which is forbidden, but Roscoe is still teaching her. Roscoe, along with his friend Clem, wants to run off to war. When their slave master becomes sick, they all have to come together to keep everything running. Then, when Missy Claire, the slave master's wife, has her brother come, Roscoe and Clem run away. The women are at a party, serving, and they don't find out until later.

Bish Denham says

I really wanted to give this book 3 and half or 4 stars because for the most part I liked it. I thought the alternating chapters between the Summer and her older brother Rosco was well done. The differences in their experiences, how they see things, is clearly told through their individual narratives.

And... I was very disappointed with the ending. It seemed rushed and unfinished to me.
