



That Is My Dream!

Langston Hughes , Daniel Miyares (Illustrator)

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"Dream Variation," one of Langston Hughes's poems about the dream of a world free of discrimination and racial prejudice is now a picture book.

To fling my arms wide

In some place of the sun,

To whirl and to dance

Till the white day is done....

Follow one African-American boy through the course of his day as the harsh reality of segregation and racial prejudice comes into vivid focus. But the boy dreams of a different life--one full of freedom, hope, and wild possibility, where he can fling his arms wide in the face of the sun.

That Is My Dream! Details

Date : Published October 3rd 2017 by Random House/Schwartz & Wade

ISBN :

Author : Langston Hughes , Daniel Miyares (Illustrator)

Format : 32 pages

Genre : Poetry, Childrens, Picture Books, Social Movements, Social Justice, History

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From Reader Review That Is My Dream! for online ebook

Stephanie says

That is My Dream! is a picture book created by Daniel Miyares using Langston Hughes's poem "Dream Variation. This book is about a boy who lives in a time of segregation, but dreams of a different world. The gouache illustrations use color beautifully and add to the understanding of the poem by illustrating the segregation that the boy faced and his dream of a different world.

That is My Dream! was selected by the NCTE Award for Excellence in Children's Poetry Committee as a 2018 Notable Poetry Book. This book is recommended for students starting in kindergarten. The illustrations in this book invite conversation about the topic of segregation and the boy's dream of change. This book would also be appropriate to use in older grades to go along with a unit of study on segregation and the Civil Rights Movement.

Mary Ann says

I love the way Miyares illustrates this poem from Langston Hughes, focusing on hope and change while still capturing the realities and tensions caused by racial segregation. Outstanding picture book for older readers.

Eleanor says

A beautiful combination of poetry and illustration that delicately shows the reality of segregation and racism.

Jillian Heise says

This is stunning.

Becky says

First sentence: To fling my arms wide/ In some place of the sun,/ To whirl and to dance/ Till the white day is done./ Then rest at cool evening/ Beneath a tall tree/ While night comes on gently,/ Dark like me--That is my dream!

Premise/plot: That is My Dream is a picture book poem. The poem is Langston Hughes' Dream Variation which was originally published in 1926 in his first poetry collection. The illustrator has placed the poem within the context of the segregated south in the 1950s. The first half reflects the way things are/were--as seen from a young boy's perspective--and the second half reflects his dream: how he wants things to be.

My thoughts: That Is My Dream is a lovely picture book. (Last year I reviewed Langston Hughes' The Dream Keeper and Other Poems.) Hughes' poem is beautiful. The illustrations are absolutely stunning. I loved, loved, loved, LOVED the illustrations. Yes, the text is wonderful. But the illustrations convey just as much--if not a tiny bit more--than the text. Together they make for a compelling, thought-provoking read. I think it would pair well with Patricia McKissack's Goin' Someplace Special.

Laura Harrison says

I can hardly wait for this book to be released to the general public in the fall. It is magnificent! Based on an awesome Langston Hughes poem, the illustrator Daniel Miyares has created his finest work. I am talking Caldecott worthy art. I wish it could be a contender but the ol' Caldecott rules won't allow it. Bravo to Mr. Miyares for creating such an incredible book. You can actually see the love that went into making it. I'm not kidding. Check it out as soon as you can, folks.

Tina says

Hughes' 1926 published poem is a must read in this beautifully illustrated picture book. Read it with your children and then have a great big 'ol family talk about why it was written and how devastatingly real (and, wrong, by the way) these words still are 91 years later. Tugs at the heart...

Raven Howell says

What a wonderful book! Even if you're unfamiliar with this poet's work, still a good read!

Brittany Thurman says

Beautiful.

Fiona Hill says

Wow, the power of poetry! A poem by Langston Hughes later illustrated and shared as a picture book by Daniel Miyares. This book reveals the deep truth of inequality by exploring one young boy's dream. Enabling young readers to empathise and see a dark part of our world that they may not be aware of. The illustrations are stunning. Poem simply gorgeous. You have to read it!

Donalyn says

Beautiful book. Don't miss this one.

Grace Noto says

Title: That is My Dream!

Author: Langston Hughes

Illustrator: Daniel Miyares

Genre: picture book of poems

Theme(s): Racism, acceptance, family, freedom

Opening line/sentence: "To fling my arms wide in some place of the sun, to whirl and dance until the white day is done."

Brief book summary: That is My Dream is a picture book that was made to illustrate Langston Hughes' poem "Dream Variation." The poem follows a young boy who lives in a dream world where racism and prejudice does not exist.

Professional Recommendation/Review #1:

Name of Source: Kirkus

Link: <https://www.kirkusreviews.com/book-re...>

Short blurb: Like Charles R. Smith's My People and E.B. Lewis' The Negro Speaks of Rivers, Miyares' rendition of Hughes' famous poem connects intimately with children's lives. In the illustrations alone, Miyares creates the story of a little suspenders-wearing African-American boy who travels to town in the back of the bus with his mother and sister, at the same time developing a mutual interest in a little white boy who rides in the front of the same bus with his mother and sister. The boys sneak glances at each other while on the bus, walking in town, and drinking from water fountains labeled "WHITES ONLY" and "COLORED ONLY." That evening, Dad joins the black family for a picnic. A brown sparrow lands on the boy's finger, prompting a turn in the realistic narrative. The line "That is my dream!" initiates the fantasy. As the sun sets, the two sets of siblings ride on colorful birds (sparrow, goldfinch, bluebird, and cardinal): "Dance! Whirl! Whirl!" together in the sky. Miyares' historically situated watercolor illustrations perfectly capture the tensions of racial segregation, contrasting them against the joy and peace that come from the freedom for all children to make friends who don't look like them.

Professional Recommendation/Review #2:

Name of reviewer: Marya Jansen-Gruber

Name of Source: Through the Looking Glass Children's Book Reviews

Link: <http://lookingglassreview.com/books/t...>

Short blurb: This is a powerful interpretation of the poem Dream Variation by Langston Hughes. The illustrator beautifully combines a gorgeously illustrated pictorial narrative with the poet's words, to give young readers a picture book that is timeless. The book celebrates what could be, and dares to hope of a time when all children can play in a world free of divisions.

Response to Two Professional Reviews:

Both reviews praised the beautiful illustrations by Daniel Miyares, who I agree developed a fleshed out and fantastical world for the words of Langston Hughes to take place. I found that the book did a good job of illustrating the differences between the white family and the black family from the black child's perspective. While reading the book, the reader gets transported into a dream world with the child.

Evaluation of Literary Elements:

There is a huge use of comparison in this book to illustrate inherent racism in the time period of the poem. The segregation of things such as the water fountains and the bus show that the white and black family may be doing the similar things but the black family is forced to stay out of the way, in their own area. Another thing the author and illustrator used was metaphor. Once the book takes a fantastical turn, the white and black children turn into birds. The birds represent freedom because they can fly wherever they want whenever they would like, which is exactly what the main character wishes for.

Consideration of Instructional Application:

I think that it is important after reading this book to have a discussion with my students about racism and explain the harmful effects that segregation had on this country. On a more positive note, we can also discuss our own dreams, possibly altogether in an anchor chart format or in independent writing time.

Another interest activity that I could do with the class would be to have my students draw illustrations to go with their favorite poems. That is My Dream! Was originally did not have any illustrations so that activity would go along with the book.

Erika says

I read this during my toddler storytime! I love having Langston Hughes' poem "Dream Variation" available as a picture book! We not only read the book, but we also talked about what was happening in the pictures. For example, we talked about the color of their skin and how the young boy and his family were sitting in the back of the bus because that's the only section where they were allowed to sit. We talked about two water fountains, and how one said "whites only." I asked open ended questions like, "How would it make you feel if you couldn't do something because of your skin color?"

These questions might seem really tough for toddlers (and I do have some older siblings in the class so they do help with the discussion a lot), but it got them thinking and talking which was the point of the discussion. We are doing the Reading Without Walls challenge right now, so we have been reading books about people who do not look or live like this; books in different formats; and nonfiction books! This book almost fits into all three categories for most of us (it's a poem, so it was a new format for some of the kids).

Miss Sarah says

Langston Hughes poem Dream Variation illustrated with a young boy going through his day and hoping for the future. Beautiful and simple. Baby and up

Shannon Kay says

Stunning. Such a beautiful blend of poetry and art.
