



THE LAND AND OTHER BOOKS

by Mildred Taylor

About the Logan Family Saga

All of Mildred D. Taylor's novels to date are based on stories from her own family, stories she learned at family gatherings throughout her life. In her Author's Note in **The Land**, she explains that her great-grandfather was the basis for the character Paul-Edward:

"In writing **The Land**, I have followed closely the stories told by my father and others about my great-grandparents. From as far back as I can remember, I had heard stories about my great-grandfather, who bought the family land in Mississippi. Born the children of an African-Indian woman and a white plantation owner during slavery, my great-grandfather and his sister were brought up by both their parents. Their father had three sons by a white wife, and he acknowledged all of his children. He taught his children to read and write and he ordered his white sons to share their school learning with them. All the children sat at their father's table for meals, and my great-grandfather often went with his father and his brothers on their trips around the community." (**The Land**, 269)

Similarly, in her other novels, nearly all the events are based on stories Taylor has heard from her father and other family members; nearly all the characters are based on family members or acquaintances she has known or learned about. The Logan family saga, then, is essentially family history for Taylor. The saga begins with Paul-Edward Logan in **The Land** leaving his family in Georgia in the 1870's and eventually settling in Mississippi, where he buys **The Land** that will become the homestead for all the future Logans. The next part of the saga, *The Well*, is told by David Logan, one of Paul-Edward's sons. The third book of the saga, *Mississippi Bridge*, is the only book in the Logan stories not narrated by a member of the Logan family. A white boy, Jeremy Simms, reports a tragedy that he and the Logan children witness in 1931. The fourth book, **Song of the Trees**, is told from the point

of view of a third-generation Logan, Cassie, who narrates the rest of the Logan stories: **The Friendship; Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry; Let the Circle Be Unbroken;** and **The Road to Memphis.**

The Logan stories closely follow the history of Taylor's own family, from her great-grandfather's purchase of land in Mississippi in the 1880's to their move to Ohio in the 1940's. The as-yet-untitled Logan, currently Taylor's last novel planned for the saga, will take Cassie and her brothers through World War II.

The Books of Mildred D. Taylor

Song of the Trees (1975)

The novella is based on an real incident that occurred on Taylor family land in Mississippi during the Depression.

Narrated by eight-year-old Cassie Logan, this story begins while Cassie's father is away working for the railroad in Louisiana. Mr. Andersen, a white man, uses the Logan's desperate financial situation to coerce Big Ma Logan to allow him to cut as many trees as he thinks fit for sixty-five dollars. The children discover that Mr. Andersen plans to cut down all the trees, and when they tell their mother, she sends Stacey on horseback to bring their father, David Logan, home as soon as possible. When David returns, he and Stacey wire dynamite charges throughout the forest, and in a suicidal showdown with Andersen and his cutting crew, David threatens to blow up the entire forest and everyone in it if Andersen doesn't immediately stop cutting trees. With the plunger in hand, David stands up to Andersen, who at first thinks David is just bluffing. Andersen finally backs off, leaving the felled trees on the ground. Cassie mourns the destruction of her forest and at the end of the story hears her father call out softly, "Dear, dear old trees, will you ever sing again?" (52).

Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry (1976)

This Newbery Award-winning novel is based on the story told by Taylor's father of an African American boy who with two white boys broke into a local store, and during the robbery, killed the store owner. The African American boy was accused of the murder, and his two white "friends" were a part of the lynch mob that came after him.

Set in Mississippi in 1933, the novel reports a year's worth of events that involve the Logans and their community. The Logan children—Stacey, Cassie, Christopher-John, and Little Man—walk several miles along dirt farm roads to attend elementary school. Most mornings, they are run off the road by the school bus carrying white children to their school. Tensions are high in Great Faith, Mississippi, because marauding white "night men" have recently burned three men from the Berry family because one of them had allegedly leered at a white woman. This is just one of many racial incidents in the book, and in protest to the oppression and discrimination by the local whites, the Logans organize a boycott of the Wallace Store. Unfortunately, the

boycott only makes racial tensions worse. There are problems at the school as well; Mary Logan loses her teaching job, and the loss of income puts the Logan land at risk. Cassie faces problems of her own, including Lillian Jean Simms, a racist white girl a few years older than she. The main conflict of the novel is tied to T. J. Avery, a trouble-making friend of Stacey's who becomes involved with two older white boys, Melvin and R. W. Simms. The personal and community conflicts in the novel reveal the Logans' strengths—love, courage, and unity—and ultimately bring the family closer together.

Let the Circle Be Unbroken (1981)

This novel combines Taylor's family history with U.S. history of the 1930's. This is Taylor's longest novel, and it has several subplots. The first three chapters feature the trial of T. J. Avery. Despite overwhelming evidence of his innocence and Mr. Jamison's attempts to have T. J. acquitted, he is convicted by an all-white jury. Later in the novel Cassie witnesses the various ways Jim Crow laws affect African Americans. When labor organizer Morris Wheeler attempts to protect the rights of the poor African American farmers, the wealthy white farmers incite violence. When the Logans' Cousin Bud and his mixed-race daughter, Suzella, come to visit, local white boys harass them both. When Lee Annie Lees tries to register to vote, every one of her honest and legal attempts is thwarted by the white bureaucracy. When the family's financial situation puts their land at risk, Stacey signs on with a cane cutting crew and nearly dies in abusive indentured servitude. Once again, the Logans' unity, courage, and love help them survive these various crises.

The Gold Cadillac (1987)

This novella is based on Taylor's recollection of a family trip from Ohio to Mississippi in the early 1950's.

This appears to be the only book that is not about the Logan family, but Taylor considers it a part of the Logan saga. The family in **The Gold Cadillac**, she says, is the same family described in the other Logan stories, but after they have moved North. She decided to change their names—to names from her own family—to avoid confusion with her other stories.

Young 'lois narrates the story beginning with the day her father brings home a brand-new Cadillac. She and her sister are excited, but her mother is upset because she worries that 'lois' father has spent money that they were

saving for a home in a better neighborhood. Her father decides to take the car on a trip to Mississippi, but his relatives discourage him, warning that is "a mighty dangerous thing for a black man to drive an expensive car into the rural South" (67). The family makes the trip anyway, and along the way, the father is stopped and taken to the police station, leaving his wife and daughters waiting in the car, worrying whether or not he will return. He is back by morning and decides to leave his car with a cousin in Memphis and make the rest of their trip in a less conspicuous borrowed car. For 'lois the entire trip becomes an education in the ugliness of racism.

The Friendship (1987)

This short novel is based on a story that Taylor's father shared with her a few years before his death.

Cassie and her brothers witness a conflict between a white man, John Wallace, and an old man and family friend, Mr. Tom Bee. Years earlier, Bee had twice saved Wallace's life, and to show his gratitude, Wallace told Bee that, rather than follow the Southern practice that requires African Americans to address whites by Mister or Miss, he may always address Wallace by his first name. One morning when the Logan children are near the Wallace Store, Mr. Tom Bee enters the store and calls John Wallace "John" instead of "Mr. Wallace." This "disrespect" infuriates Wallace's sons and Charlie Simms, and they badger John Wallace into taking "appropriate" action. After warning Bee to stop calling him by his first name, John Wallace shoots him, explaining immediately afterward, "this here disrespectin' me gotta stop and I means to stop it now. You gotta keep in mind you ain't nothing but a nigger. You gonna learn to watch yo' mouth. You gonna learn to address me proper. You hear me, Tom?" (45). Even lying on the road, his leg blown open by the shotgun blast, Mr. Tom Bee ignores Wallace's orders and continues to address him as John. Horrified, Cassie and the Logan children wait for the second shotgun blast to end Mr. Tom Bee's life, but it never comes.

Mississippi Bridge (1990)

In the book's dedication, Taylor states that this novella also comes from one of her father's stories.

Mississippi Bridge is narrated by ten-year-old Jeremy Simms, the enigmatic white friend of the Logan children. One rainy spring day, two black women, Rudine Johnson and her mother, come to the Wallace Store to wait for the bus to Jackson and, while waiting, endure racist treatment from Mr. Wallace and other white men. A few minutes later, a white woman, Miz Hattie McElroy, and her young granddaughter arrive and are treated courteously by the white men. Later they're joined by Josias Williams, a young black man, and Big Ma Logan to wait for the bus. When the crowded bus arrives, they all find seats, with the blacks taking seats in the rear. Before the bus leaves, a large white family shows up and wants to board, so the bus driver forces the black passengers to give up their seats. When the overcrowded bus is midway across the Rosa Lee Creek bridge, the bridge collapses and the bus falls into the raging creek water. Josias and Jeremy are immediately on the scene, and Josias does everything he can to rescue people trapped in the bus, but many people drown, including Miz Hattie and her granddaughter.

The Road to Memphis (1990)

The novel's main action is triggered by a racist incident in Strawberry. When Cassie and Stacey Logan and their friends, Little Willie, Moe, and Clarence, stop at a local garage to repair a tire, Moe is harassed by three white brothers. He loses his temper and severely beats all three young men with a tire iron. Jeremy Simms helps Moe escape Strawberry and certain lynching, and drives him to Jackson to meet Stacey, Cassie, Little Willie, and Clarence. Moe's friends realize that Moe isn't safe anywhere in the South and decide to drive through the night to Memphis, where they will put him on a train to Chicago. The trip to Memphis is filled with dangerous situations, and the headaches that Clarence has been complaining about get so bad that the group has to leave Clarence with a healing woman on **The Road to Memphis**. Eventually they get to Memphis and put Moe on a train to Chicago. While Stacey, Cassie, and Little Willie are in Memphis, Clarence dies from a brain hemorrhage, so the three friends return home grieving over the loss of two of their good friends: Clarence dead and Moe in exile in the North. Back in Strawberry, in the presence of the sheriff, his father, and his racist cousins, Jeremy Simms confesses that he helped Moe escape, and Charlie Simms beats Jeremy and then disowns him. The novel concludes with a

bittersweet reunion at the Logan home, interrupted by Jeremy, who has come to say good-bye to the Logans before he enlists in the military.

The Well (1995)

This story, narrated by young David Logan, tells of a hot, dry summer when all the wells, except for the Logans', have dried up. The Logans willingly share their water with all their neighbors—black and white, even with the hateful and ungrateful Simms family. Hammer Logan's temper gets him into a fight with Charlie Simms, and both Hammer and David must work the entire summer, for free, on the Simms' farm to pay for Hammer's crime of hitting a white person. A week after they complete their work, they return to the Simms' farm, and Hammer knocks Charlie down again, this time daring him to tell Mr. Simms that Hammer did it alone. Charlie is furious about the beating and threatens revenge, and a few days later, Charlie and his brother poison the Logans' well with the carcasses of possums, racoons, and skunks. The story ends when Mr. Simms finds out what his sons have done, and he punishes them publicly for their stupid act of revenge.

The Land (2001)

This story of Paul-Edward Logan is the prequel to the entire Logan saga. The novel is divided into two main parts, "Childhood" and "Manhood." It concludes with "Legacy," a short epilogue. "Childhood" focuses on Paul-Edward from ages nine to fourteen while he's living on his father's plantation in Georgia. While he is young, Paul-Edward has a relatively good life. His father treats him as an equal to his white sons, and Paul-Edward grows accustomed to the treatment. The only irritant in his life at this time is Mitchell Thomas, son of the plantation's horse trainer, who loves to torment young Paul-Edward. Paul-Edward gradually learns that Mitchell resents Paul-Edward's life of privilege, and in order to end the regular beatings he receives from Mitchell, Paul-Edward offers to teach Mitchell to read and write in exchange for Mitchell teaching him to fight. This begins a friendship that will last throughout their lives. As Paul-Edward gets older, his father begins to teach him that although he is light-skinned, as a mixed-race boy he is considered in the South to be colored and is therefore subject to the abusive treatment by whites and white society. Paul-Edward resents these lessons and begins to resent his father as well. When Paul-Edward is fourteen, he and Mitchell accompany Paul-Edward's father to a horse show in East Texas, where Paul-Edward violates his father's orders to stay away from a wild horse. Paul-Edward and Mitchell then run away, taking itinerant jobs in turpentine and

lumber camps. "Manhood" begins about ten years later with Paul-Edward and Mitchell still working in lumber camps. Paul-Edward's yearning for land of his own leads him to leave the lumber camp and find work in Vicksburg, a town near some beautiful land that he covets. After a year of carpentry work, Paul-Edward makes a deal with Fillmore Granger to acquire forty acres of land. Mitchell comes to live and work with Paul-Edward clearing **The Land**, and marries Caroline Perry. After nearly two years of hard work, Mitchell is murdered by Digger Wallace, leaving a pregnant Caroline behind to finish the work he and Paul-Edward agreed to do for Fillmore Granger. As the work is nearly completed, Granger reneges on his deal and evicts Paul-Edward from **The Land**, leaving Paul-Edward despairing that he will never own land. When it appears that all is lost, Paul-Edward receives help from his Georgia family and is able to purchase his dream land from a Northerner who has agreed to sell it to him. Soon after he has the deed, he marries Caroline and they settle on his new land. The novel concludes with "Legacy," a brief epilogue where Paul-Edward brings readers up to date on events that happened in the years after he bought his land and with his reconciliation with his father back in Georgia.

Pre-reading Questions

1. What family stories have you heard from parents, grandparents, or other relatives? Retell one of the most memorable of these stories and explain why it's memorable.
2. What were some of the hardships all Americans faced during the Great Depression? What additional hardships did African Americans in the South face during the same period?
3. What were "Jim Crow" laws? What was their purpose? Find some examples of how these laws were applied. If Jim Crow laws applied to you now, how would you react?
4. What is the difference between a sharecropper and a tenant farmer? Which would be most advantageous to a landowner? What would be some disadvantages to sharecropping and tenant farming?
5. How important is a unified, supportive family? In what ways would this kind of family benefit the members of such a family? What circumstances work to undermine family unity? Why would a close-knit family be especially important during the Great Depression?

Discussion Questions for the Logan Family Saga

1. What is the history of the Logan land in Taylor's novels? What was Paul- Edward Logan's role in acquiring **The Land**? Who consistently worked to take **The Land** from the Logans? What are some things the Logans did to keep their land? To get started, take a look at these pages: **Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry**, 6-8; 90-95; 168-170. **Let the Circle Be Unbroken**, 128-130; **The Land**, 160-61; 339-360.
2. In **The Land**, an old man named Elijah makes a very brief appearance in the novel (159-161). What is his role in the story? How might his role be an allusion to the Old Testament prophet Elijah (see Malachi 4: 5-6)? What other Biblical allusions exist in **The Land** or in other novels of the Logan saga?
3. Taylor's first novel, **Song of the Trees**, focuses on a tree-cutting incident; how does that incident reappear in later Logan novels? How does it foreshadow events in the Logan prequels **The Well** and **The Land**?
4. A good example of symbolism in **Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry** is David Logan's comparison of the fig tree in their yard to the Logan family (205-206). What other examples of symbolism exist in **Roll of Thunder** or other Logan stories?
5. In **The Land**, the young white boy Wade Jamison befriends African American Nathan Perry (245) despite the fact that the people and social customs of the area discourage such friendship. This previews the character of Jeremy Simms who, two generations later, will befriend the Logan children. In **The Land**, how do Mitchell Thomas and Paul-Edward Logan regard the interracial friendship of Wade and Nathan? In later Logan stories, how do adults react to relationships between whites and blacks? Why do they react the way they do?
6. Because it is a prequel, many characters who appear in **The Land** reappear or are alluded to in other Logan novels. Some of those are Mr. Tom Bee, John Wallace, Wade Jamison, Caroline Perry, Rachel Perry, Horace Avery, and Paul- Edward Logan. How does Taylor use these characters in her other novels?
7. Often in the Logan stories, fathers give good advice to their children, and many times that advice relates to "using your head": "You clear your head so you can think sensibly." (**Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry**, 176); "Don't get so smart, Daughter, you don't use your head." (**Road**

- to Memphis, 105); "You boys better start learning how to use your heads, not your fists." (*The Well*, 72); "Then you use what you're strongest at, boy! You use your head." (*The Land*, 5). In what ways do the various Logan children "use their heads" to solve their problems? What kinds of problems do they get into when they don't "use their heads"?
8. In her Newbery Award acceptance speech, Taylor said that one of her goals as a writer was to "paint a truer picture of Black people. I wanted to show the endurance of the Black world, with strong fathers and concerned mothers; I wanted to show happy, loved children about whom other children, both Black and white, could say, 'Hey, I really like them! I feel what they feel.' I wanted to show a Black family united in love and pride, of which the reader would like to be a part." With her Logan stories, how effectively has Taylor achieved her goals? In what ways does she show the Logans to be a model family?
 9. Taylor is often praised for her positive portrayal of strong female characters. In addition to Cassie Logan, who are some other strong female characters? How do they demonstrate their strength? Are there any female characters in the Logan stories who are not strong? If so, in what ways are they weak?
 10. After reading all nine of Mildred D. Taylor's Logan novels, make a timeline that accounts for the major characters and events in all the books. Review your timeline and consider these questions: What characters has Taylor sustained throughout the series? Why has she kept them in the stories? Which characters are restricted to only one book? Why? Do any historical gaps exist? If so, where?

Connections to U.S. History

1. What were the 13th, 14th, and 15th Amendments? How did they affect the lives of people like Paul-Edward Logan and other characters in the Logan stories?
2. What did the Civil Rights Act of 1875 establish in the United States? How was that Act affected by the 1896 Supreme Court case Plessy v. Ferguson?
3. How did sharecropping hinder the economic progress of the recently emancipated slaves? How did sharecropping in the 1930's limit the freedom of people like the Logans' neighbors?
4. How did the political stances of African American leaders Booker T. Washington and W. E. B. Du Bois differ? Which leader would Hammer Logan most likely have agreed with? Which would David Logan have agreed with? Why?
5. What was the goal of Roosevelt's New Deal? How did its programs the Agricultural Adjustment Act (AAA), the Works Progress Administration (WPA), and the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) affect tenant and share cropping farmers? What did the Southern Tenant Farmers Union attempt to accomplish? How are the New Deal programs portrayed in **Let the Circle Be Unbroken**?
6. Who was A. Philip Randolph? What did he have to do with President Roosevelt's Executive Order 8802 in 1941? How did that order lead to the migration of African Americans from the Southern states to the North?

About Mildred D. Taylor

Mildred D. Taylor was born in Jackson, Mississippi, in 1943, to Wilbert Lee Taylor and Deletha Marie Davis Taylor. Life in the racially segregated South was difficult and sometimes unpleasant for Wilbert Taylor, so a few weeks after his daughter's birth, he boarded a train bound for Ohio hoping to establish a home in the North, where his family would have opportunities that wouldn't be possible in Mississippi. Within a week he had found a factory job in Toledo, and two months after that, when Taylor was three months old, he brought his family to the North. It wasn't long before many members of Taylor's extended family followed her family to Ohio, and for much of her childhood, she was surrounded by aunts, uncles, and cousins. Even though he lived in the North, Taylor's father never stopped loving the South and the family that remained behind in Mississippi, and throughout Taylor's childhood, he regularly took his wife and children to visit them. It was during those visits to Mississippi that Taylor learned about family history and storytelling, both of which would, years later, become essential to her writing career.

The telling of family stories was a regular feature of Taylor family gatherings. Family storytellers told about the struggles relatives and friends faced in a racist culture, stories that revealed triumph, pride, and tragedy. The stories inspired Taylor, and she still has a vivid recollection of the storytelling sessions: "I remember my grandparents' house, the house my great-grandfather had built at the turn of the century, and I remember the adults talking about the past. As they talked I began to visualize all the family who had once known **The Land**, and I felt as if I knew them, too. . . . "Many of the stories told were humorous, some were tragic, but all told of the dignity and survival of a people living in a society that allowed them few rights as citizens and treated them as inferiors. Much history was in those stories, and I never tired of hearing them. There were stories about slavery and the days following slavery. There were stories about family and friends." ("Acceptance of the Boston Globe-Horn Book Award for **The Friendship**." *The Horn Book Magazine*, March 1989, 179-80)

From these stories, Taylor learned about her great-grandfather, the son of a white plantation owner in Alabama and a slave woman. In the late 1800's, this young man ran away from Alabama and subsequently bought land and settled in Mississippi; **The Land** he purchased more than 100 years ago is

still owned by the Taylor family. In the 1950's, Taylor attended newly integrated schools in Toledo; she graduated from Scott High School in 1961 and from the University of Toledo in 1965. After graduation from college, she joined the Peace Corps and spent two years in Ethiopia. When she returned to the United States, she enrolled in the University of Colorado, eventually earning a master's degree. After she graduated from the University of Colorado, Taylor settled in Los Angeles to pursue her writing career. Her manuscript **Song of the Trees** won the first Council on Interracial Books for Children Award in 1974 and was published by Dial Books in 1975. Her first novel, **Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry** won the 1977 Newbery Award from the American Library Association. **The Land** is the ninth book in her award-winning saga about the Logan family.

Notes to the Reader from Mildred D. Taylor

"In the recent years, because of my concern about our 'politically correct' society, I have found myself hesitating about using words that would have been spoken during the period my books are set. But just as I have had to be honest with myself in the telling of all my stories, I realized I must be true to the feelings of the people about whom I write, and I must be true to the stories told. My father and the other storytellers told my family's history truly, and it is this history I have related in my books. When there was humor, my family passed it on. When there was tragedy, they passed it on. When the words hurt, they passed them on. My stories will not be 'politically correct,' so there will be those who will be offended by them, but as we all know, racism is offensive." (**Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry**, 25th Anniversary Edition, vi-vii)

"All of my books are based on stories told by my family, and on the history of the United States. In my writing I have attempted to be true to those stories and the history. I have included characters, incidents, and language that present life as it was in many parts of the United States before the Civil Rights Movement. Although there are those who wish to ban my books because I have used language that is painful, I have chosen to use the language that was spoken during the period, for I refuse to white-wash history. The language was painful and life was painful for many African Americans, including my family.

"I remember the pain.

"Since writing my first book, **Song of the Trees**, it has been my wish to have readers walk in the shoes of the Logan family, who are based on my family, and to feel what they felt. It has been my wish that by understanding this family and what they endured, there would be further understanding of what millions of families endured, and there would also be a further understanding of why there was a Civil Rights Movement, a movement that changed our nation." (**The Land**, xiii)

Resources and Further Reading

Crowe, Chris. *Presenting Mildred D. Taylor*. New York: Twayne Publishers, 1999.

Taylor, Mildred D. "Mildred D. Taylor." *Something About the Author Autobiography Series*, vol. 5. Ed. Adele Sarkissian. Detroit: Gale Research Company, 1988. 267-286.

Ibid. "Acceptance Speech for the 1997 ALAN Award."
<http://scholar.lib.vt.edu/ejournals/ALAN/spring98/taylor.html>

"Taylor, Mildred D." *Something About the Author*, vol 70. Eds. Donna Olendorf and Diane Telgen. Detroit: Gale Research Company, 1993. 222-226.

Internet Sites

<http://falcon.jmu.edu/~ramseyil/taylor.htm>

http://www.indiana.edu/~eric_rec/ieo/bibs/taylor.html

<http://www.sdcoe.k12.ca.us/score/roll/rolltg.htm>

<http://www.sparknotes.com/lit/rollofthunder/>

<http://www.classicnote.com/ClassicNotes/sources/thunder.html>

Videocassettes

Taylor, Mildred D. "Mildred D. Taylor: **Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry.**" Videocassette. Films for the Humanities and Sciences. 1988, 1991 release. #2800.

"Meet the Newbery Author: Mildred Taylor." Videocassette. Produced by Miller- Brody. Distributed by American School Publs. 1991 #004614.

Related Reading: African Americans and the Civil Rights Movement

The Black Americans: A History in Their Own Words by Milton Meltzer

The Civil Rights Movement in America: from 1865 to the Present by Patricia and Fredrick McKissack

The Civil Rights Movement: An Eyewitness History by Sanford Wexler

Eyes on the Prize: America's Civil Rights Years, 1954-1965 by Juan Williams

Freedom's Children: Young Civil Rights Activists Tell Their Own Stories by Ellen Levine

I've Got the Light of Freedom: The Organizing Tradition and the Mississippi Freedom Struggle by Charles M. Payne

Rosa Parks: My Story by Rosa Parks with Jim Haskins

Slavery Time When I Was Chillun edited by Belinda Hurmence

Witnesses to Freedom: Young People Who Fought for Civil Rights by Belinda Rochelle

Related Reading: Related Novels

Freedom Song by Yvette Moore

Hiding Mr. McNulty by Berniece Rabe

Nightjohn by Gary Paulsen

Sarny by Gary Paulsen

Say You Are My Sister by Laurel Brady

Spite Fences by Trudy Krisher

To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee

The Watsons Go to Birmingham, 1963 by Christopher Paul Curtis

Related Reading: Depression Era Novels

Bud, Not Buddy by Christopher Paul Curtis

Cissy Funk by Kim Taylor

Esperanza Rising by Pam Nu-oz Ryan

A Long Way from Chicago by Richard Peck

Nothing to Fear by Jackie French Koller

Nowhere to Call Home by Cynthia C. Defelice

Out of the Dust by Karen Hesse

Treasures in the Dust by Tracey Porter

A Year Down Yonder by Richard Peck

Books By Mildred D. Taylor

The Friendship

- ALA Notable Children's Book
- Boston Globe-Horn Book Award
- Coretta Scott King Award
- NCSS-CBC Notable Children's Trade Book in the Field of Social Studies
0-14-038964-4 pb
0-8037-0417-8 hc

The Gold Cadillac

- Christopher Award
- NCSS-CBC Notable Children's Trade Book in the Field of Social Studies
0-14-038963-6 pb
0-8037-0342-2 hc

The Land

0-8037-1950-7 hc

Let the Circle Be Unbroken

- ALA Best Book for Young Adults
- ALA Notable Children's Book
- Coretta Scott King Award
- National Book Award Nominee
- NCSS-CBC Notable Children's Trade Book in the Field of Social Studies
- New York Times Outstanding Book of the Year
0-14-034892-1 pb
0-8037-4748-9 hc

Mississippi Bridge

- Christopher Award
- NCSS-CBC Notable Children's Trade Book in the Field of Social Studies
0-14-130817-6 pb

The Road to Memphis

- ALA Best Book for Young Adults
- ALA Notable Children's Book
- Coretta Scott King Award
- NCSS-CBC Notable Children's Trade Book in the Field of Social Studies
0-14-036077-8 pb
0-8037-0340-6 hc

Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry

- ALA Notable Children's Book
- Booklist's Best of the Best Books 1970-1982
- Boston Globe-Horn Book Award Honor
- Coretta Scott King Honor
- Horn Book Fanfare Honor List
- Kirkus Choice
- National Book Award Nominee
- NCSS-CBC Notable Children's Trade Book in the Field of Social Studies
- Newbery Medal
0-14-034893-X pb (rack-trim)
0-14-038451-0 pb (digest-trim)
0-8037-2647-3 hc

Song of the Trees

- Coretta Scott King Honor
- Council on Interracial Books Award
- National Book Award Honor
- New York Times Outstanding Book of the Year
0-8037-5452-3 hc

The Well

- ALA Notable Children's Book
- ALA Quick Pick for Reluctant Readers
- NCSS-CBC Notable Children's Trade Book in the Field of Social Studies
0-14-038642-4 pb
0-8037-1802-0 hc

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