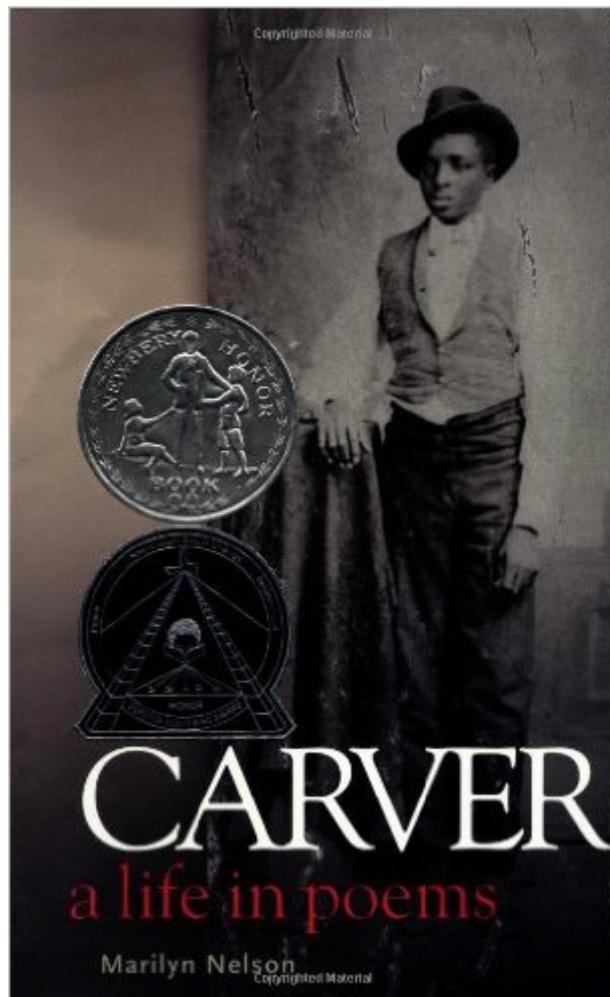


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Carver: A Life In Poems



Synopsis

George Washington Carver was born a slave in Missouri about 1864 and was raised by the childless white couple who had owned his mother. In 1877 he left home in search of an education, eventually earning a master's degree. In 1896, Booker T. Washington invited Carver to start the agricultural department at the all-black-staffed Tuskegee Institute, where he spent the rest of his life seeking solutions to the poverty among landless black farmers by developing new uses for soil-replenishing crops such as peanuts, cowpeas, and sweet potatoes. Carver's achievements as a botanist and inventor were balanced by his gifts as a painter, musician, and teacher. This Newbery Honor Book and Coretta Scott King Author Honor Book by Marilyn Nelson provides a compelling and revealing portrait of Carver's complex, richly interior, profoundly devout life.

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 890L (What's this?)

Series: Coretta Scott King Author Honor Books

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Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 starsÂ See all reviewsÂ (19 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #314,416 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #8 inÂ Books > Teens > Education & Reference > Science & Technology > Botany #26 inÂ Books > Teens > Biographies > Science & Technology #41 inÂ Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Poetry

Age Range: 12 - 14 years

Grade Level: 6 - 9

Customer Reviews

As a person coming from a hard-core science and engineering background, I never thought that poetry had any 'value'. I never once saw in poetry insight into the nature and state of affairs of human beings. So I was very surprised when I read Ms. Nelson's Carver, A Life in Poems. Ms. Nelson presents us with poetry so rich in texture, so layered in meaning that these few lines of prose convey much, much more information than hundreds of pages of dry text. The book skillfully

combines anecdotal historical footnotes with powerful poetic prose to tell the story of the most influential man in American agricultural history. Carver the man overcame severe hardship and the prejudices of others to achieve great things. Living in a time when opportunities were few and far between for American Blacks, and slavery was a vivid recollection, Carver blazed a trail that few have been able to even approach, let alone top, since then. Even though he dealt with his share of racism, not every person not of African-American ancestry was unkind to him. Given the least of all of his peers, black or white, Carver went on to achieve the most in life. In spite of the hardships, the racism, and even the slights and insults of his own people, he left behind a legacy of good work, compassion, and technical accomplishment that stands the test of time. As such, Carver takes a solid place among the great minds of antiquity- from Imhotep, Egypt's greatest builder, to Confucius, China's greatest thinker and statesman. Although Carver's array of inventions is impressive, his ingenuity and knack for turning what others see as worthless into something valuable, as in the poems 'Chemistry 101' and 'The Wild Garden' and 'God's Little Workshop', is truly astounding.

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