



The Friendship

Mildred D. Taylor

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Cassie Logan and her brothers have been warned never to go to the Wallace store, so they know to expect trouble there. What they don't expect is to hear Mr. Tom Bee, an elderly black man, daring to call the white storekeeper by his first name. The year is 1933, the place is Mississippi, and any child knows that some things just aren't done.

A powerful story. Readers will be haunted by its drama and emotion long after they have closed the book.*Booklist*

The Friendship Details

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Author : Mildred D. Taylor

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From Reader Review The Friendship for online ebook

Alexandra says

wow. this was a very powerful children's book. like...extremely powerful. and sad and thought provoking and all the things. perhaps this would be a good book for children to read with their teachers and classmates, as it will definitely bring up many topics of discussion.

cassie and her brothers go to the local store to pick up some headache medicine for a neighbor, and end up getting into the midst of a fight between the white store owner and an elderly black customer.

the ending was very powerful but also extremely sad. that's why i rated it 3 instead of the 4 i initially planned on. i sort of just wish things had resolved themselves in a much better way. although i love the fact that tom bee stood his ground, i wish things didn't have to go that far.

this one might be hard for younger kids to read by themselves :|

Jennifer says

I enjoyed this little book by Mildred Taylor. I think that *The Friendship* manages to touch upon the complexity of race relations in sharecropping Mississippi in such a way that it would neither overwhelm readers of the age level for which it was meant, or cheat them out of learning social issues. I think that the little book packs a big punch, and would be a very good book for a children's book group that explored multicultural topics.

Omo says

everyone remembers Cassie and her brothers from the Logan family series. from the first book roll of thunder hear my cry and the sequel. but in this book Cassie and her brothers are not the one who have gotten into trouble or are getting them self in trouble. in this book they actually see an argument between an older African American and a Caucasian man who owns the store. everyone knows you are suppose to respect your elder, based on age. but in the south at the times where racism is still alive it depends on the color of your skin. the elder African American called the store owner by his first name. this is where the store owner does not tolerate this.

Ro says

This book is horrible and fantastic, all rolled into one. It is a fantastic piece of literature to generate a discussion for a book club. I read this to my daughter's 4th grade class as part of their unit on Rights and Responsibilities. The con's of this book are how it paints a very stereotypical picture of blacks/whites and racism in the early 1900's. We live overseas and it can be depressing that blacks are portrayed in a certain way to children of other countries. But the undertones of this book are very very serious and it really makes

you think. I am not sure children this young, 9years old, can truly comprehend the gravity of what is happening in this book, but maybe I am just old fashioned and want to let children hang on to their innocence a little longer. I would recommend this book for a middle school book discussion.

Ch_nataliepelaia says

This chapter book by Mildred D. Taylor shows the relationship between a white man and a black man living in the South before the Civil rights movement. The Logan children walk nervously into a store to pick up medicine for their Aunt Cassie. They were always warned by their parents to not go into this store, but they had to get the medicine. The store is owned by the Wallaces who are white and the Logan children are black. While standing outside the store they see their friend who is an elderly black man, named Mr. Tom Bee. He walks in the store and to the children's amazement calls the owner by his first name. He feels he has the right to do this for a long time ago, Tom Bee saved John Wallace's life and John (the white man) always said that Tom can call him by his first name. John feels embarrassed by the other white men in the store and becomes angry and threatens to harm Mr. Tom Bee, when Tom refuses to call him by any other name other than John.

This story would be good for older elementary students. So they can appreciate the courage Tom Bee has and they can see that John Wallace should not crumble to pure pressure by his white peers, instead he should do what he believes is right. Children should learn about life before the Civil rights movement and today how we still work towards equality. They need to learn to stick up for what they believe in.

Jennifer says

A powerful young adult story about racism in the 1930s. I'm not sure when I'll feel that my son is ready to read this, though.

Sassy Shweta says

WE read this book in class, and it really gives a sense of life back then during the period of segregation. This book is only a novella, but if you enjoyed this book I strongly suggest you read Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry. The symbolism and quotes are very powerful.

Audrey says

Oh dear! This short story is so sad and full of injustice. It is about an elderly black man, during the 1930s, who was betrayed by a white man whom he once considered his friend. It was so terrible how he was treated. I just wanted to cry. It made me so angry.

Rebecca (whenallotherlightsgoout) says

Mildred D. Taylor is quickly climbing my list of authors I watch. After reading *Roll of Thunder Hear My Cry* (which I really liked) I still was not sure if I would read all of her other books being they are written for a younger age group and the library did not have them on audio. (The reader for the audio book of *Roll of Thunder* was excellent!) On a whim I ordered two Ms. Taylor short stories from the library, this one and *Mississippi Bridge*. I have only read one of them and I am sure I want to read all of the tales that include the Logan family!! Truth is, if I read this book when I was younger, the meaning would probably have been lost on me. The ending is very powerfully stunning, yet it could be confusing for younger readers. Ms. Taylor is an excellent and engaging writer and her stories. I have always liked learning about the civil rights movement and this period in history. Ms. Taylor brings it alive with her wonderful story telling.

Ben Sirois says

I personally liked this book it is an easy read but it does uses higher level vocabulary. I don't recommend the book to younger readers, for one it has racial slurs in it that little readers should not hear nor repeat. The book really develops problems and solutions and the characters have a good side and a bad one, and it really shows.

Mary Sutterluety says

Coretta Scott King Award

I was unnerved by this book. Perhaps it was the overt racism, or the shotgun blast to the main character's knee, or the broken friendship between an old black man and a white store owner... Whatever it was, it is a chilling look back at Jim Crow.

Shadman705 says

H.W final r.r

in this book there is a lot of racism going on and sometimes it goes around now. in this book the time was

long ago. The book's main character is Mr. Tom Bee. He is an African American. Then there are the white people like John Wallace and his children Dewberry and Turston. When Tom came into the store he was talked to rudely and not obeyed and very mistreated. Why? Because he is black. He was referred to as a nigger. Black people have to call white people by Mr or Ms. When John's children did not listen to Tom John came in. John obeyed. But it was for only one reason. Tom has saved John's life long time ago. So think about if Tom did not save John's life. I can infer that the white people including John would beat him or kill him and he would not be served at all. Here is a part from the book which is able to explain this idea:

Dewberry pointed a warning finger at Mr. Tom Bee. "Old nigger" he said "Don't you never in your life speak to me that way again. And don't you never stand up there with your black face and speak of my daddy or any other white man without proper respect. You might be forgetful mind your age, but you forgettin' the wrong thing when you forgetting who you are. A nigger nothing but a nigger. You may be old Tom,. But you ain't to old to teach and you ain't to old to whip"

Well you can see what Dewberry is saying that he did not treat him with proper respect but look at that freakin idiot. He calls him a nigger which is racist. He called him nothing but a nigger. That doesn't seem like proper respect. If a person doesn't respect you why should you respect them back? That something that happens now too. My parents tell me to respect back. But I say no. Dewberry had also said not to talk to any other white man in the way Tom did. I think that was barely disrespectful. He said white men which also shows they do not care about blacks. He treats them badly. They are judged by the color of their skin!

The other part of racism in this book was when Tom and John were doing business . Here is the text:

"Wants me my sardines and some candy there John" Dewberry slammed his fist hard upon the counter. "Daddy how come you let this old nigger disrespect you this here way? Just lettin' him stand there and talk to you like he was a white man."

So Tom came in and just called John by his name. To them it was disrespect but I didn't see anyone calling Tom by Ms or Mr and any other white man calling John by Ms or Mr. Only blacks did. The word nigger also came up again. The word is a disrespectful racist word.

Any way John was lucky to still be alive. and John even gave his word to Tom he could call him John. That is like betrayal. What kind of friend is that?

Not all the characters were racist. Jeremy wasn't he was being friendly to everyone. He just asked them if they wanted to go fishing together and he politely took a candy cane from Tom. John was like that before when he was saved by Tom. He let him call him John. But now things changed. He gave his friend a word and later had broken it. He had no family but Tom was there. He acted like his dad. What kind of person goes around doing bad things to his dad?

I also think that John had never wanted to do anything to Tom. It was just that the people around him were intimidating him. They were yelling at him for letting a black person talk to them like that. So he needed to do something. But the messed up part was that he did it for his reputation. But John gave Tom several warnings. Once in the store when Tom was buying. Then later John shot Tom . He told him that he didn't want to do that. And when Tom went further there was silence. The second shot. That shows how some people change.

Lisa Mason says

1. Historical Fiction

2. In *The Friendship*, three young black brothers and their sister experience racism in a very real way at the general store outside their community. They are teased and threatened by the shop owner's sons only to later witness the shooting of their friend Mr. Tom Bee, by the same group of men.

3. A. Theme B. Racism/Friendship C. *The Friendship* addresses the theme of racism from a very realistic perspective. The children know the unwritten rules of their community, like not calling white folks by their first names. When Mr. Tom Bee refuses to stop calling the white store owner, Mr. John Wallace, by his first name everyone knows that trouble is coming. However, another important theme in the novel is friendship. Mr. John Wallace and Mr. Tom Bee had been very good friends. Racism and the cultural divides between blacks and whites come to destroy that friendship and tear it apart, just as the gun shot tore Tom Bee's leg apart in the final pages of the novel.

4. This very short book can lead to some important discussions about racism within the middle school classroom. The use of racially sensitive words within the text needs to be addressed with care and respect, but can be an important learning opportunity. Students may also be challenged to research other unwritten rules that were true during the time of the novel and think about similar rules that may still exist today.

Amanda says

This was a good book. I've read *Roll of Thunder Hear My Cry* and when I found out there was other books that had the same characters I wanted to read them. So when I found this one at the dollar store I picked it up. The story was so sad, and it's horrible that people had to go through crap like that... I'm just happy that the old man in the story took a stand.

Molly Cline says

This was book #5.5 (book 7) of the Logan series written by Ms Taylor. Although this book was more for children versus the first book "The Land" was it was still almost just as good. And although she didn't write in the beginning of this one this is what she wrote in the first pages of "The Land" and it applies to this book as well... "...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 whitewash history. The language was painful and life was painful for many African Americans, including my family." So if your teenage child is reading this it may allow you to open up discussion to things (s)he may never have had to encounter in our society today (as far as the language). But she writes true to her words, if she had changed the language then the book wouldn't have been as Historically OR family accurate to be as good as it was!

This is such a wonderful true story. Ms Taylor takes the stories she has grown up listening to from her grandparents and uncles-aunts and takes the story of her great grandpa AND her great grandma and combine

them for this story! Knowing that made it even more wonderful. This is book 5.5 (or book 7) of this series of books. There are 8 books in this 'Logan' series which many people don't realize since book #4 apparently was Ms Taylor's first book she wrote for this series. Since it won awards and she had so much more history to write she took off with it and made it into a series. Some of the books are 'novels' and others (like this one) are smaller 90 page 'children's' books (looks like labeled for ages 7-11 according to Amazon) but as an adult I loved this book and am looking forward to continuing reading this series.

Now with that being said... I am white and I nor any of my family have ever had to deal with what 'freed' slaves or a child from a mixed family has had to deal with. In reading this within the first few chapters my heart went out because the same emotions that was written within this book during segregation-depression era is the same emotions that some people have to endure even today, (although not as 'gruff')

In this book the Logan children go to the local store that their parents have warned them NOT TO GO TO! But one of the elders of the community needed some medication and has asked the kids to go get it for her. So out of respect for her they go. While there they have to wait, and wait due to their skin color being black and the owners of the store being white; to be waited on. After they are done an elderly colored gentleman comes in and the store owners son call him names and really start up something with him. Especially since he called their Dad by his first name! Something that colored people NEVER did. The history the store owner and the black gentleman has is one of heart wrenching love but with time and society that friendship breaks... GREAT book to introduce your older child to segregation and civil rights. But be prepared for questions as they may have many
