



# The Journal Of Joshua Loper, A Black Cowboy

*Walter Dean Myers*

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## **The Journal Of Joshua Loper, A Black Cowboy** Walter Dean Myers

Two-time Newbery Honor-winning author Walter Dean Myers writes about an African-American boy's struggles with his first cattle drive and the racial prejudices of the day.

## **The Journal Of Joshua Loper, A Black Cowboy Details**

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Author : Walter Dean Myers

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# From Reader Review The Journal Of Joshua Loper, A Black Cowboy for online ebook

## HenryMehring says

In the book The Journal of Joshua Loper, A Black Cowboy by Walter Dean Myers from the book series "My Name Is America", it talks about Joshua Loper's experience with the cattle drive. The book is in the form of a journal, with day by day entries.

Joshua Loper is a teenager of a former slave. He joined the cattle drive from Texas to Kansas. The leader is strict, and kind of picks on Joshua for keeping a journal. They all have to keep watch in shifts at night, which is difficult for them. In their venture, they need to go through some tough encounters with rustlers and other difficulties and challenges. Through all of this, Joshua shows that he is a good, hard working kid, and the leader of the drive starts to like Joshua. It is all in all difficult to live with the drive. Then, there is a stampede where one of the cowboys dies.

I didn't like this book a lot, as it was in the journal form, but It wasn't really bad. I would probably give it a 3.5/5 rating.

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## Tyler R says

This book is amazing to me which is why I gave it five stars. I like thinking about what it would be like to be back in the old days when they rode horses and drove cattle. I really wish I could ride a horse like Joshua the main character does. I would probably not like to ride a horse as long as he does like on the chisolm trail. That would probably be to long of a ride he gets a sore back and gets really bad. Then again I might not even like riding a horse since I never have. I would never do what he did because some people die on the trail along.

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## Olivia says

The first time I read this book as a young reader, I loved it. I like learning about cowboys and thought it was so exciting.

Reading it this second time kind of changed my opinion. The problem was the writing. I felt like most of the time it was written like Joshua was a seventy old man telling his cowboy life to his grandkids. Like what he was writing wasn't happening but had already happened. I don't know if anyone else read it like that but it just seemed weird to me.

Still, I'm keeping the book because I do still kind of like it and I have a son now who may be interested in cowboys someday.

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## Turtle says

It reads more like a first person narrative than a "found journal" story. Which wasn't bad so much as

different. Not really too my taste. I'm more for the actual journal nature of the other Dear America series books. The history is fascinating but I found myself being a little bored by the story. I can't really say why. It was a cattle drive, which is hard grueling work but not really tension filled. I'm not sure... can't really put my finger on why exactly I was bored through most of the book but I was. And for that reason I have to give it a lower score.

Maybe it's just that I already know a lot about cowboys and cattle drives since my mother used to live on a cattle ranch. It's not really new to me. Interesting but nothing new.

But if you like cowboys and you're a beginning reader then I could see this story being a good fit for you. Just wasn't so much for me. :)

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### **Carter says**

I have never read a Historical Fiction book before but after I read The Journal Of Joshua Loper, A Black Cowboy I saw historical fiction differently. When I started this book I thought it was going to be a long, dry, and boring experience. I think the reason I actually like this book was all the trouble and hardships He had to face to achieve his goal of being a black cowboy. This book was set a long time ago so blacks were seen very differently back then and treated harsh, that is why it was rough for Joshua.

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### **Autumn Box says**

Well let me start off by saying I only know about cowboys from books and movies. So this was enlightening about the cattle drive cowboys.

This is from the series My Name Is America, A Dear America book. This is the boys version of the historical fiction diaries.

In this one we get to know Joshua Loper. He was what we would call a teenager, but at the time was expected to be a man. You actually wanted more of his story when the book was done.

There was one spot in the book that made me ball my eyes out.

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### **Lindsay says**

This is about a African American boy and his time on his first cattle drive. He was free and there were very tough jobs for them. It about Joshua being a cowboy and the prejudice of being black.

It a good read. Though this is mostly about the time in American History. It tells you more about being Black cowboy and on the trail of "The Chisholm Trail in 1871."

If you enjoy history this is good. This is told though the boys prospective as in Dear American is told though a girl prospective. It good for children to learn about our history at that time. Learn about Cattle drives as well as what it was like being African American in the 1871.

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### **Kaitlin Harrington says**

This was such a sweet book of a son who truly carried for his mother and tried to maintain his morals during some really tough situations. Joshua is a well rounded character who is kind to all and tries his best to keep doing the right thing even if the right thing is very hard for him. He is a deep love of animals specifically his horse Pretty and his a young but good cowboy from the start.

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### **Beverly says**

1971 The Chisholm Trail

Josh is 16 and on his first cattle drive. The trail boss does not want him because of his age and his color. Josh is a quick learner and soon experiences the different parts of the cattle drive. The "pointers" are the first 2 riders who lead the entire herd, the "swings" who wander from the points to the "drags" at the rear. The pointers also set the pace and the drags need to be aware of the gait so they don't speed up the rear into the swing area.

The time of the cowboy and trail drives was a rather short period in our history. It was primarily between 1871 and 1882. Most drives were between Texas and Kansas stockyards and later when rails went to Wyoming, Texas to there. Sleeping under stars, singing to cattle to calm them, sleeping but ready to spring up for stampedes or rustlers after horses or cattle.

This was a factual journal of a cowboy's first trip, with rustlers and stampedes. It was a good read for anyone who loves horses and western culture.

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### **Laura says**

My class is doing a unit on the author Walter Dean Myers. This is my first "Dear America" book. Are they all based on real journals?

I really enjoyed the book. The writing is simple and honest. According to the historical note, the characters were real people. I wonder if the photo on the front is actually Joshua Loper.

I liked that the book is a Texas book, set in Texas during the cattle drive years. I appreciate the story told.

I'm definitely recommending it to my 7th graders who are required to read Texas books for Texas history.

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### **Levi says**

The Journal Of Joshua Loper, A Blake Cowboy by Walter Dean Myers is one of my most favorite books that I have read. I give this book a 5 star rating because of all the conflict. Joshua Loper was a black man that was for Texas that brings cattle to Abilene Kansas and lode therm p on trains and brings the to the butcher so that

they can get the hide from the cattle.

The thinks the I liked is everything. The most thing that I like the most is the that it is a western and it is just good. There is not anything that I would change about the book. The people that should read it is anyone that like ranching, western thinks, and that like to read historical things.

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### **Jeniffer says**

Good book, not just got kids. Really get a feel about what it was like in that time period.

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### **Carolyn says**

Even though these are kids books, I love reading them. I can finish one in 2 hours and I love the historical content. I love that it's in journal form. I love how they do an epilogue about the rest of the child's life and then about that time in history.

This was a subject that I knew nothing about. I've never really paid attention to the cattle drives of the late 1800's, and I didn't know anything about black cowboys. Interesting book.

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### **David says**

This was a quick read, but good. It was an interesting look back into the life of a black cowboy in the 1870s. I had not read anything depicting this place and time, and I enjoyed learning about it. A historical note at the end of the book provided some background on the characters and locations. Period pictures also provide a nice background for the book. There are a few instances of blood and gore, but nothing serious.

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### **M says**

The Journal of Joshua Loper tells the his story from the first person point of view. The story illustrates the events of a cattle drive. Joshua captures the details of the drive's movement from Texas, Oklahoma, and Kansas in 1871. Although Joshua is excited to go out on this cattle drive, his mother is reluctant. This story is enlightening and insightful for it underscores a contribution of an African American in U.S. History.

Overall, this was a good book. I particularly enjoyed Joshua's "aha" moment which was when he realizes that his breakfast is costly and it truly is not worth the cost of his earnings.

A curriculum use for this book might be towards improving good citizenship. Since racism is often noted, teachers might reinforce non-bullying rules and find ways to demonstrate good citizenship to others.

