



The People Could Fly: The Picture Book (New York Times Best Illustrated Children's Books (Awards))

By Virginia Hamilton

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The People Could Fly: The Picture Book (New York Times Best Illustrated Children's Books (Awards)) By Virginia Hamilton

“THE PEOPLE COULD FLY,” the title story in Virginia Hamilton’s prize-winning American Black folktale collection, is a fantasy tale of the slaves who possessed the ancient magic words that enabled them to literally fly away to freedom. And it is a moving tale of those who did not have the opportunity to “fly” away, who remained slaves with only their imaginations to set them free as they told and retold this tale.

Leo and Diane Dillon have created powerful new illustrations in full color for every page of this picture book presentation of Virginia Hamilton’s most beloved tale. The author’s original historical note as well as her previously unpublished notes are included.

Awards for *The People Could Fly* collection:

A Coretta Scott King Award

A *Booklist* Children’s Editors’ Choice

A *School Library Journal* Best Books of the Year

A *Horn Book* Fanfare

An ALA Notable Book

An NCTE Teachers’ Choice

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Starred Review. Grade 2-6—Some Africans flew on shiny black wings before their capture into slavery, and though they shed their plumes when forced to board the crowded slave ships, those people with the flying magic still had their special power. Hamilton's version of this old tale of longing and hope was the title story of her 1985 collection (Knopf); it has been read, anthologized, and told so often as to seem truly timeless. The Dillons add much to savor in this elegant picture-book rendering. A richly robed band of men, women, and children flying happily over an African landscape wraps around the book cover, rooting the story in early times. Black endpapers embossed with shiny feathers mark the loss of wings. Rich, deep-hued paintings decorate each spread, a smaller view on the left with a larger scene on the right. A simple framing scheme encases art and text in thick lines on three sides; the top remains open and draws the eye upward with the ascending figures. Early scenes of slave misery ground viewers with darkened tones. Sadly, not all of the people could fly. But those who couldn't continued to tell the marvelous tale, even in their eventual freedom. The book is a lovely tribute to Hamilton. Some of her original notes on the tale appear as preface and afterword.—*Margaret Bush, Simmons College, Boston*

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From [Booklist](#)

Starred Review Gr. 3-9. The stirring title story in the late Virginia Hamilton's 1985 collection of American black folktales is an unforgettable slave escape fantasy, retold here in terse, lyrical prose that stays true to the oral tradition Hamilton knew from her family and her scholarly research. Leo and Diane Dillons' illustrations for the collection were in black and white, but the art here is beautiful full color, in the style of the cover of the collection. The large paintings are magic realism at its finest, with clear portraits showing individuals and the enduring connections between them. The images depict mass cruelty close up, but the faces of the characters Hamilton names are always distinct, even in the packed hold of the slave ships, when those "who could fly" lost their wings. Laboring in the cotton field, Sarah and her baby are whipped by the overseer. When elderly Toby helps them escape, the rhythmic paintings dramatize people flying to freedom, joining hands together in the sky. Each one is an individual, exquisitely (and differently) dressed in traditional African garb, an inspiration to those left behind, who "had only their imaginations to set them free." A final portrait shows Hamilton in kente cloth smiling above a loving family at home. This special picture-book story will be told and retold everywhere. *Hazel Rochman*

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From the Inside Flap

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Users Review

From reader reviews:

Robin Millard:

The book *The People Could Fly: The Picture Book* (New York Times Best Illustrated Children's Books (Awards)) gives you the sense of being enjoy for your spare time. You can utilize to make your capable more increase. Book can to get your best friend when you getting anxiety or having big problem using your subject. If you can make reading through a book *The People Could Fly: The Picture Book* (New York Times Best Illustrated Children's Books (Awards)) to be your habit, you can get a lot more advantages, like add your own capable, increase your knowledge about some or all subjects. You are able to know everything if you like wide open and read a e-book *The People Could Fly: The Picture Book* (New York Times Best Illustrated Children's Books (Awards)). Kinds of book are a lot of. It means that, science reserve or encyclopedia or other folks. So , how do you think about this reserve?

Robert Caceres:

This book untitled *The People Could Fly: The Picture Book* (New York Times Best Illustrated Children's Books (Awards)) to be one of several books that will best seller in this year, that is because when you read this e-book you can get a lot of benefit onto it. You will easily to buy this specific book in the book retailer or you can order it through online. The publisher of the book sells the e-book too. It makes you more easily to read this book, since you can read this book in your Cell phone. So there is no reason to your account to past this e-book from your list.

Daniel Gomez:

Reading a reserve tends to be new life style with this era globalization. With looking at you can get a lot of information that may give you benefit in your life. With book everyone in this world can share their idea. Guides can also inspire a lot of people. Plenty of author can inspire their very own reader with their story or maybe their experience. Not only the story that share in the guides. But also they write about the ability about something that you need instance. How to get the good score toefl, or how to teach your young ones, there are many kinds of book which exist now. The authors on this planet always try to improve their skill in writing, they also doing some analysis before they write on their book. One of them is this *The People Could Fly: The Picture Book* (New York Times Best Illustrated Children's Books (Awards)).

Christopher Small:

The People Could Fly: The Picture Book (New York Times Best Illustrated Children's Books (Awards)) can be one of your starter books that are good idea. Most of us recommend that straight away because this

publication has good vocabulary that may increase your knowledge in terminology, easy to understand, bit entertaining but nevertheless delivering the information. The article writer giving his/her effort that will put every word into pleasure arrangement in writing The People Could Fly: The Picture Book (New York Times Best Illustrated Children's Books (Awards)) however doesn't forget the main place, giving the reader the hottest along with based confirm resource data that maybe you can be among it. This great information can easily drawn you into brand new stage of crucial considering.

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