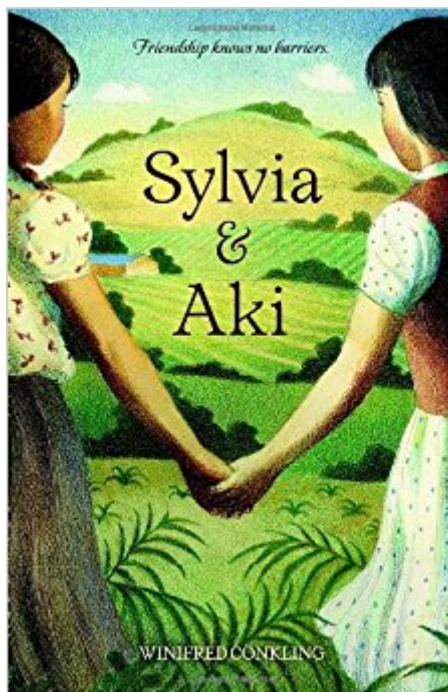


The book was found

Sylvia & Aki



Synopsis

Young Sylvia Mendez never expected to be at the center of a landmark legal battle. Young Aki Munemitsu never expected to be sent away from her home and her life as she knew it. The two girls definitely never expected to know each other, until their lives intersected on a Southern California farm in a way that changed the country forever. Who are Sylvia and Aki? And why did their family stories matter then and still matter today? This book reveals the remarkable, never-before-told storyâbased on true eventsâof Mendez vs. Westminster School District, the California court case that desegregated schools for Latino children and set the stage for Brown vs. Topeka Board of Education at the national level.

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 760L (What's this?)

Paperback: 160 pages

Publisher: Yearling; Reprint edition (July 9, 2013)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 158246345X

ISBN-13: 978-1582463452

Product Dimensions: 5.2 x 0.4 x 7.7 inches

Shipping Weight: 3.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars 16 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #33,080 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #22 inÂ Books > Children's Books >

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inÂ Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Historical Fiction > United States > 1900s

Age Range: 9 - 12 years

Grade Level: 4 - 7

Customer Reviews

This novel presents a fictionalized account of injustices endured by two real California children during World War II and is based on multiple interviews with both and other historical records. In alternating chapters Conkling follows the forced relocation of young Aki Munemitsu and her family to a camp in Arizona and the experiences of Sylvia Mendez, who moves into Akiâs old room when her father rents the Munemitsusâ asparagus farm. When his children are denied enrollment in the townâs main school, Sylviaâs father institutes what becomes the landmark desegregation

suit Mendez v. Westminster School District. Though both story lines feature only the sketchiest of plots, the author perceptively focuses on both children's inner questions about their own self-worth and identities as Americans in the face of open discrimination. At the war's end the children meet (they're still friends to this day) and exchange dolls. Conkling closes with notes about the families, the suit, the camps, and further resources. This story, despite its purposeful agenda, illuminates a lesser-known milestone in our country's struggle for equal rights for all. Grades 4-6. --John Peters --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

WINIFRED CONKLING studied journalism at Northwestern University and spent the next 25 years writing nonfiction for adult readers, including articles for Consumer Reports magazine and more than 30 nonfiction books. As part of her transition to writing for young people, she is working toward her Master of Fine Arts in Writing for Children and Young Adults from the Vermont College of Fine Arts. Sylvia & Aki is her first work for children.

Adding this to my library of historical fiction. Sylvia said the doll was an added touch, but otherwise it's an okay read.

Amazing book. Until I attended the Latino Children's Literacy Conference this March, I had never heard of Sylvia Mendez, what a wonderful story.

Best read of the summer. History and compassion from the middle schoolers.

Great book for grades 3 through up and teaches about a history that is consistently glazed over in schools.

Book was enjoyed by my niece. She read it in one day

Sylvia & Aki presents parallel issues of official discriminations through the memories of two young girls who lived through historical injustices. The long-lasting policy of segregated public schools and the briefer but abhorrent internment of Japanese Americans during World War II wither under the spotlight of Winifred Conkling's sensitive and compelling depictions. Quite suitable for young readers, the intertwined true-life stories also remind older readers that mistakes from America's past must never be repeated. Highly recommended.

My 11 year old enjoyed this book. The social issues that the book dealt with led to discussions about oppression in our history.

I love this book! It is great for kids and really tells an amazing story. So happy I bought this book. Will be keeping it for many years.

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