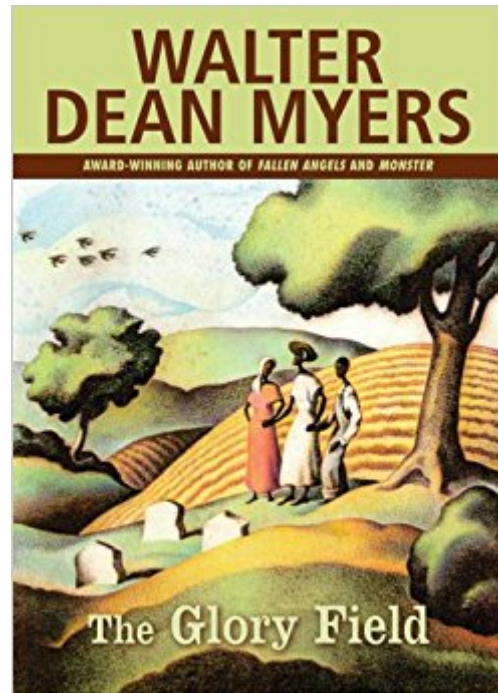




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# The Glory Field



## Synopsis

An exciting, eye-catching repackaging of acclaimed author Walter Dean Myers' bestselling paperbacks, to coincide with the publication of *SUNRISE OVER FALLUJA* in hardcover. "Those shackles didn't rob us of being black, son, they robbed us of being human." This is the story of one family. A family whose history saw its first ancestor captured, shackled, and brought to this country from Africa. A family who can still see remnants of the shackles that held some of its members captive -- even today. It is a story of pride, determination, struggle, and love. And of the piece of the land that holds them together throughout it all.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 800 (What's this?)

Mass Market Paperback: 400 pages

Publisher: Scholastic Paperbacks; 4/15/08 edition (May 1, 2008)

Language: English

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Product Dimensions: 0.8 x 5.2 x 7.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 9.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.0 out of 5 stars 75 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #110,750 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #39 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Family > Multigenerational #273 in Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Multicultural Stories > African-American #324 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Family Life > Multigenerational

Age Range: 12 - 17 years

Grade Level: 7 and up

## Customer Reviews

Spanning nearly 250 years of African American history, this emotionally charged saga of the Lewis family traces an ongoing battle for freedom and equality. Beginning with young Muhammad Bilal's journey from Africa in 1753 and ending with a 1990s family reunion set on the plantation where Muhammad was a slave, this series of resonant stories shows how each generation comes of age by taking a stand against oppression. All through the Civil War, Great Depression and civil rights movement, the family's strength and determination continue unabated. In his typically taut, economic prose, Myers (*Somewhere in the Darkness*) illuminates shadowy corners of history and

reveals the high cost-and the excruciatingly slow process-of justice. The obstacles facing the Lewis family will be remembered as clearly as their triumphs, and readers will come away from this novel with both a broader perspective on social conflicts and a more profound understanding of the past. Ages 10-up. Copyright 1994 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Grade 7 Up-This moving, effective novel is a sort of Roots for young adults. It chronicles the African American experience through the lives and times of one family, beginning in 1753 with the capture of Muhammed Bilal in Sierra Leone. He survives his journey to America on a slave ship to become the founder of a family, whose history The Glory Field is all about. Readers then meet one of his descendants, Lizzy, a young slave who works on a plantation in 1864 on Curry Island, South Carolina. From slavery, escape, and the Civil War, they follow the fortunes of the family to the year 1900. Then, teenaged Elijah migrates North. Chicago of the 1930s is described through the experiences of Luvenia, 16; Curry of 1964 is seen through the eyes of Tommy, also 16. The last part of the story is set in the present and focuses on Malcolm and Shep, teenaged cousins who have come to Curry from New York City for a family reunion. The decades pass swiftly and are connected by characters who appear in one segment of the saga and reappear later as survivors from the past or as memories. Each part of the story ends on a hopeful note, yet each is unfinished. Readers are left to wonder what happened to various people; sometimes an answer is provided, but more often not. The vast array of characters play out their lives challenged and beset by problems of racism, poverty, and identity. The anchors in their lives are family and their love for one another and their land. A beautifully written, powerful book. Carol Jones Collins, Montclair Kimberley Academy, NJ Copyright 1994 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

This book was easy to read and the content that the Author used throughout the book was identifiable so the reader would be able to reflect on their own historical knowledge. The title Glory Field maintained its importance to the Lewis family through many generations. When reading you felt part of that struggle. It made you think how things changed in such a short period of our American history. It took major sacrifices of a race to get to where they are today. Sometimes you reflect back and think could this part of history be different. I sometimes wonder. I would highly recommend the book be part of the Middle School curriculum.

School project. Granddaughter needed it to complete an assignment at school. This was a good price for a needed book. Readily available when researched.

Bought this for my daughters class project and we are looking forward to this school year.

Saved the day. No book required

Excellent book which depicts the history of an African American slave family from the 1700's until the present. Tells of families personal struggles and triumphs throughout the generations.

I very much enjoy books that deal with ethnicity and self-discovery. And I'm beginning to enjoy American history at least a little (world history has always held my attention; the United States only has 200 years to work with, see what I mean?). I could find, however, nothing incredible or amazing about this book. It is typical. Some scenes are mediocre, some are less than mediocre, very few truly caught my interest. Myers' gift (which probably isn't nonexistent, since "Fallen Angels" is quite popular) manifests in the areas of this book that are broad and well-known. I could have written a book of this ilk. All I would have needed to know would be something about slavery, something about the Great Depression. And that's all. "The Glory Field" seemed to lack detail, and another element which I can't quite put my finger on, but must have something to do with making the novel fall together, into one cohesive tale (with many strands woven into it, characterized by the many family members). Ahhhh...characterized, huh? Well, I could not relate to any of the characters in this book -- I was forced to stretch the truth at school, when on a daily quiz the teacher asked, "Which character could you most relate to?" I answered Lizzy. I lied. My history teacher, a very well-read woman who makes everything fall into place, makes everything interesting, once showed us a video on American slavery. It truly was painful to watch. It showed slaves, men and women, scarred, children with faces mature beyond their years. If "The Glory Field" had handled some of these grisly elements -- perhaps not physically, since this is, after all an 8th grade book (and people seem to think my kind are stupid, immature, and can't take reality as it comes), but mentally (Lizzy was there, Lizzy did this, but did Lizzy really think much running away, besides, "I am afraid. But I am elated because I will be free" or about Lem's death and her subsequent marriage to Lem's brother Richard, or about Miss Julia's pampering -- (while Lizzy was thinking about flouncing about Johnson City in white gowns I kept thinking about her being slapped by Miss Julia on one occasion) -- , etc, etc). Mohammad Bilal's role, also, was not expanded upon. This was somewhat of a relief (I still

remember the incredibly boring 6th grade book "Amos Fortune: Free Man"), but later, a disappointment. Where were the people, behind the cardboard cutout images of American clichés? The slips in years would have been more tolerable if the characters were realistic, more poignant if the characters were likable (forget realism, then, let's go for liking 'em, Mr. Myers!). All in all, a passable book... It makes me think, 'Well, if this book got published, I can publish one of my own books, right?' Now, you tell me, is that good or bad?

The Glory Field was a type of book that I have never read before. This story has more of a history sense to it. The historical accuracies about slavery, and the life of a colored person, throughout our history, makes this so that you can figuratively put yourself into the story, as if you were experiencing it all for yourself. I do however believe that it is against what people would think of in current times, and people's views about situations that occurred in The Glory Field. People in today times would be totally against how the whites treated the colored. Our society has grown up as one with every person of all ethnicities, with no racism; for the most part. (Racial Slur!) Frank Petty's voice whines through the growing cold. Don't you be walking away from no white man when he talking proper to you! (Page 102) Things like that, if said in modern time, could get you in some big trouble as a white person. However, since this story does take place in the past, it is appropriate to use this kind of terminology. The same thing goes with many of the events throughout the story including slavery, and the ways the colored are treated. Throughout reading The Glory Field, I stumbled upon certain sections in the reading that were a little more difficult to comprehend. I would recommend that people looking for something new to read to take interest in this book, only if they would like a more challenging read. Personally, I would probably have a senior English class read this story as an assignment, because of the level of difficulty that is apparent to me. The Glory Field is one of the first geographic stories that I have ever read, and I was very impressed. I would most definitely read another story like this, because not only did I get something to keep me entertained, but it taught me a little about a different view of our history in America.

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