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Review of *Sail Away: poems* by Langston Hughes

Shaune Young

Cedarville University, Syoung@cedarville.edu

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Sail Away: poems

Hughes, Langston

Illustrated by Ashley Bryan

New York: Atheneum Books, 2015

9781481430582

This collection of Langston Hughes poems is the ideal way for children to read poetry. All the poems have to do with water, either the sea, rain, or rivers. A lot of the poems have African-American themes, which was very important to Hughes. This book shows children the beauty of poetry not just through the words crafted by Hughes, but also through Bryan's illustrations of cut out waves and faces. Children will love this book for the colorful pages and soft lullaby like songs. The crown jewel of this book is the final poem of rivers. All these poems show the deep richness of poetry that I think children need to hear. Poetry should be devoured by children. They should read it voraciously. The cadence and rhythm of each poem is magical. I would recommend this book for children ages four to ten (and maybe even some adults).

Highly Recommended. *Shaune Young, Centennial Library Intern, Cedarville University*