

CALL IT COURAGE BY ARMSTRONG SPERRY

CALL IT COURAGE BY ARMSTRONG SPERRY: A TIMELESS TALE OF BRAVERY AND SELF-DISCOVERY

CALL IT COURAGE BY ARMSTRONG SPERRY IS A CLASSIC NOVEL THAT HAS CAPTIVATED READERS FOR DECADES WITH ITS POWERFUL THEMES OF COURAGE, PERSONAL GROWTH, AND RESILIENCE. FIRST PUBLISHED IN 1940, THIS NEWBERY MEDAL-WINNING BOOK TELLS THE STORY OF A YOUNG BOY NAMED MAFATU, WHO EMBARKS ON A TRANSFORMATIVE JOURNEY TO OVERCOME HIS FEARS AND PROVE HIS BRAVERY. THROUGH VIVID STORYTELLING AND RICH CULTURAL DETAIL, ARMSTRONG SPERRY OFFERS READERS NOT JUST AN ADVENTURE, BUT A PROFOUND EXPLORATION OF WHAT IT MEANS TO FIND COURAGE WITHIN ONESELF.

THE STORY BEHIND CALL IT COURAGE BY ARMSTRONG SPERRY

AT ITS HEART, **CALL IT COURAGE BY ARMSTRONG SPERRY** IS A COMING-OF-AGE STORY SET AGAINST THE BACKDROP OF THE SOUTH PACIFIC ISLANDS. MAFATU, THE PROTAGONIST, IS A POLYNESIAN BOY WHO HAS BEEN BRANDED A COWARD BECAUSE OF HIS INTENSE FEAR OF THE SEA—A FEAR THAT DEEPLY CONFLICTS WITH HIS COMMUNITY'S SEAFARING TRADITIONS. DETERMINED TO PROVE HIS WORTH, MAFATU SETS OUT ALONE ON A SMALL CANOE INTO THE VAST OCEAN, FACING NATURAL DANGERS AND INNER DOUBTS ALIKE.

ARMSTRONG SPERRY, WHO WAS A SEASONED TRAVELER AND ARTIST, USED HIS FIRSTHAND EXPERIENCES IN THE SOUTH PACIFIC TO CREATE AN AUTHENTIC SETTING THAT BRINGS THE STORY TO LIFE. THE NOVEL'S VIVID DESCRIPTIONS OF ISLAND LIFE, THE OCEAN'S BEAUTY AND PERIL, AND THE CHALLENGES MAFATU FACES MAKE THE READING EXPERIENCE IMMERSIVE AND EMOTIONALLY RESONANT. THIS AUTHENTICITY HAS HELPED **CALL IT COURAGE BY ARMSTRONG SPERRY** REMAIN A BELOVED BOOK AMONG READERS OF ALL AGES.

EXPLORING THE THEMES AND MESSAGES IN CALL IT COURAGE

WHAT MAKES **CALL IT COURAGE BY ARMSTRONG SPERRY** STAND OUT IS NOT JUST THE ADVENTURE, BUT THE DEEPER THEMES IT EXPLORES. HERE ARE SOME OF THE KEY MESSAGES THAT READERS CAN TAKE AWAY FROM THE NOVEL:

THE JOURNEY OF OVERCOMING FEAR

MAFATU'S STORY IS FUNDAMENTALLY ABOUT FEAR AND HOW IT CAN BE CONFRONTED AND CONQUERED. HIS INITIAL TERROR OF THE SEA IS RELATABLE TO ANYONE WHO HAS FACED A PERSONAL CHALLENGE OR INSECURITY. THROUGHOUT THE NOVEL, MAFATU LEARNS THAT COURAGE IS NOT THE ABSENCE OF FEAR BUT THE DETERMINATION TO FACE IT HEAD-ON. THIS MESSAGE CONTINUES TO RESONATE, ESPECIALLY WITH YOUNG READERS WHO MAY BE NAVIGATING THEIR OWN FEARS AND ANXIETIES.

SELF-RELIANCE AND GROWTH

ANOTHER IMPORTANT THEME IN **CALL IT COURAGE BY ARMSTRONG SPERRY** IS THE IDEA OF SELF-RELIANCE. MAFATU'S SURVIVAL DEPENDS ON HIS ABILITY TO THINK INDEPENDENTLY, ADAPT TO HIS ENVIRONMENT, AND TRUST IN HIS OWN SKILLS. THE NOVEL HIGHLIGHTS HOW PERSONAL GROWTH OFTEN REQUIRES STEPPING OUTSIDE ONE'S COMFORT ZONE AND EMBRACING UNCERTAINTY. SPERRY'S PORTRAYAL OF MAFATU'S MATURATION IS BOTH INSPIRING AND INSTRUCTIVE, ENCOURAGING READERS TO DEVELOP RESILIENCE AND CONFIDENCE.

RESPECT FOR NATURE

THE NATURAL WORLD IS ALMOST A CHARACTER ITSELF IN *CALL IT COURAGE* BY ARMSTRONG SPERRY. THE SEA, THE ISLANDS, AND THE WILDLIFE ALL PLAY CRUCIAL ROLES IN MAFATU'S JOURNEY. SPERRY'S DETAILED DESCRIPTIONS CULTIVATE A DEEP RESPECT FOR NATURE'S POWER AND BEAUTY. THIS ENVIRONMENTAL MINDFULNESS IS WOVEN SEAMLESSLY INTO THE NARRATIVE, REMINDING READERS OF THE IMPORTANCE OF LIVING IN HARMONY WITH THE NATURAL WORLD.

ARMSTRONG SPERRY'S WRITING STYLE AND IMPACT

ONE OF THE REASONS *CALL IT COURAGE* BY ARMSTRONG SPERRY HAS ENDURED AS A CLASSIC IS DUE TO SPERRY'S ENGAGING AND ACCESSIBLE WRITING STYLE. HIS PROSE IS CLEAR YET EVOCATIVE, MAKING THE NOVEL SUITABLE FOR BOTH MIDDLE-GRADE READERS AND ADULTS. THE PACING BALANCES MOMENTS OF TENSION AND REFLECTION, KEEPING READERS EMOTIONALLY INVESTED.

AUTHENTICITY THROUGH RESEARCH AND EXPERIENCE

SPERRY'S BACKGROUND AS AN ARTIST AND EXPLORER ENRICHES THE TEXT WITH CULTURAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL ACCURACY. THIS AUTHENTICITY SETS *CALL IT COURAGE* APART FROM MANY OTHER ADVENTURE STORIES OF ITS TIME, OFFERING A RESPECTFUL DEPICTION OF POLYNESIAN CULTURE RATHER THAN A STEREOTYPED OR EXOTICIZED VIEW.

LEGACY AND INFLUENCE ON CHILDREN'S LITERATURE

WINNING THE NEWBERY MEDAL IN 1941 CEMENTED *CALL IT COURAGE* BY ARMSTRONG SPERRY'S PLACE IN CHILDREN'S LITERATURE HISTORY. THE NOVEL HAS INSPIRED COUNTLESS YOUNG READERS TO EMBRACE COURAGE AND SELF-DISCOVERY. IT ALSO HELPED PAVE THE WAY FOR MORE DIVERSE AND CULTURALLY RICH STORIES IN YOUTH FICTION, SHOWING THAT STORIES FROM DIFFERENT PARTS OF THE WORLD HAVE UNIVERSAL APPEAL.

WHY READ *CALL IT COURAGE* TODAY?

IN A WORLD WHERE CHALLENGES AND UNCERTAINTIES ARE COMMON, THE LESSONS FROM *CALL IT COURAGE* BY ARMSTRONG SPERRY REMAIN REMARKABLY RELEVANT. HERE'S WHY THIS NOVEL CONTINUES TO BE A VALUABLE READ:

- **TIMELESS THEMES:** FEAR, COURAGE, AND GROWTH ARE EXPERIENCES EVERYONE CAN RELATE TO, REGARDLESS OF AGE OR BACKGROUND.
- **EDUCATIONAL VALUE:** THE BOOK OFFERS INSIGHT INTO POLYNESIAN CULTURE AND THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT OF THE SOUTH PACIFIC, ENRICHING READERS' UNDERSTANDING OF THE WORLD.
- **ENCOURAGES RESILIENCE:** MAFATU'S STORY IS A REMINDER THAT SETBACKS AND FEARS ARE PART OF LIFE BUT CAN BE OVERCOME WITH DETERMINATION.
- **BEAUTIFUL STORYTELLING:** SPERRY'S VIVID IMAGERY AND EMOTIONAL DEPTH MAKE THE NOVEL AN ENGAGING READ FROM START TO FINISH.

TIPS FOR READERS AND EDUCATORS

IF YOU'RE CONSIDERING INTRODUCING *CALL IT COURAGE* BY ARMSTRONG SPERRY TO YOUNGER READERS OR USING IT IN A CLASSROOM SETTING, HERE ARE SOME WAYS TO ENHANCE THE EXPERIENCE:

1. **DISCUSS THE CONCEPT OF COURAGE:** HAVE CONVERSATIONS ABOUT WHAT COURAGE MEANS IN DIFFERENT CONTEXTS, USING MAFATU'S JOURNEY AS A STARTING POINT.
2. **EXPLORE POLYNESIAN CULTURE:** SUPPLEMENT THE BOOK WITH INFORMATION ABOUT THE CUSTOMS, GEOGRAPHY, AND HISTORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS.
3. **CONNECT TO PERSONAL EXPERIENCES:** ENCOURAGE READERS TO REFLECT ON TIMES THEY FACED FEARS OR CHALLENGES AND HOW THEY MANAGED THEM.
4. **ENGAGE WITH NATURE:** USE THE NOVEL'S ENVIRONMENTAL THEMES AS A SPRINGBOARD FOR OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES OR NATURE STUDY.

THE ENDURING APPEAL OF *CALL IT COURAGE* BY ARMSTRONG SPERRY

DECADES AFTER ITS PUBLICATION, *CALL IT COURAGE* BY ARMSTRONG SPERRY CONTINUES TO INSPIRE READERS WITH ITS HEARTFELT EXPLORATION OF BRAVERY AND SELF-BELIEF. MAFATU'S TALE REMINDS US ALL THAT TRUE COURAGE IS FOUND NOT IN THE ABSENCE OF FEAR, BUT IN THE STRENGTH TO FACE IT. THE NOVEL'S BLEND OF ADVENTURE, CULTURAL RICHNESS, AND TIMELESS LIFE LESSONS ENSURES THAT IT REMAINS A TREASURED STORY, INVITING EACH NEW GENERATION TO DISCOVER THE POWER OF CALLING IT COURAGE.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WHAT IS THE MAIN THEME OF '*CALL IT COURAGE*' BY ARMSTRONG SPERRY?

THE MAIN THEME OF '*CALL IT COURAGE*' IS BRAVERY AND SELF-DISCOVERY, AS THE PROTAGONIST MAFATU OVERCOMES HIS FEAR OF THE SEA AND PROVES HIS COURAGE.

WHO IS THE PROTAGONIST IN '*CALL IT COURAGE*' AND WHAT CHALLENGE DOES HE FACE?

THE PROTAGONIST IS MAFATU, A YOUNG POLYNESIAN BOY WHO STRUGGLES WITH A DEEP FEAR OF THE OCEAN, AND HE FACES THE CHALLENGE OF CONQUERING THIS FEAR TO PROVE HIS COURAGE.

HOW DOES MAFATU'S JOURNEY IN '*CALL IT COURAGE*' SYMBOLIZE PERSONAL GROWTH?

MAFATU'S JOURNEY SYMBOLIZES PERSONAL GROWTH AS HE LEAVES HIS VILLAGE, SURVIVES ALONE ON AN ISLAND, AND RETURNS TRANSFORMED, SHOWING THAT FACING FEARS LEADS TO MATURITY AND CONFIDENCE.

WHAT ROLE DOES NATURE PLAY IN '*CALL IT COURAGE*'?

NATURE IS BOTH AN ADVERSARY AND A TEACHER IN THE STORY, PRESENTING CHALLENGES LIKE STORMS AND WILD ANIMALS THAT MAFATU MUST OVERCOME, ULTIMATELY HELPING HIM GROW STRONGER AND BRAVER.

WHY IS 'CALL IT COURAGE' CONSIDERED AN IMPORTANT BOOK FOR YOUNG READERS?

IT IS CONSIDERED IMPORTANT BECAUSE IT TEACHES VALUABLE LESSONS ABOUT COURAGE, PERSEVERANCE, AND SELF-RELIANCE, INSPIRING YOUNG READERS TO FACE THEIR OWN FEARS AND CHALLENGES.

HOW DOES ARMSTRONG SPERRY'S BACKGROUND INFLUENCE THE STORY IN 'CALL IT COURAGE'?

ARMSTRONG SPERRY'S EXPERIENCE AS A SAILOR AND HIS INTEREST IN POLYNESIAN CULTURE DEEPLY INFLUENCED THE AUTHENTIC SETTING AND DETAILED DESCRIPTIONS OF ISLAND LIFE AND THE SEA IN 'CALL IT COURAGE'.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

CALL IT COURAGE BY ARMSTRONG SPERRY: AN IN-DEPTH EXPLORATION OF A TIMELESS CLASSIC

CALL IT COURAGE BY ARMSTRONG SPERRY STANDS AS A NOTABLE WORK IN CHILDREN'S LITERATURE, CAPTURING THE ESSENCE OF BRAVERY, SELF-DISCOVERY, AND CULTURAL IMMERSION THROUGH THE STORY OF A YOUNG POLYNESIAN BOY NAMED MAFATU. FIRST PUBLISHED IN 1940, THIS NEWBERY MEDAL-WINNING NOVEL HAS MAINTAINED ITS RELEVANCE OVER THE DECADES, BOTH AS AN ADVENTUROUS TALE AND A PROFOUND PSYCHOLOGICAL JOURNEY. THIS ARTICLE DELVES INTO THE THEMATIC DEPTH, NARRATIVE STYLE, AND CULTURAL CONTEXT OF CALL IT COURAGE BY ARMSTRONG SPERRY, EXAMINING WHY IT CONTINUES TO RESONATE WITH READERS AND EDUCATORS ALIKE.

HISTORICAL AND LITERARY CONTEXT OF CALL IT COURAGE BY ARMSTRONG SPERRY

ARMSTRONG SPERRY, AN AMERICAN WRITER AND ILLUSTRATOR, DREW HEAVILY FROM HIS EXPERIENCES IN THE SOUTH PACIFIC TO CRAFT CALL IT COURAGE. THE BOOK WAS RELEASED DURING A PERIOD WHEN CHILDREN'S LITERATURE WAS INCREASINGLY EXPLORING THEMES BEYOND SIMPLE MORALITY TALES OR FAIRY TALES. THIS NOVEL MARKED A SHIFT TOWARD MORE REALISTIC AND CULTURALLY RICH STORYTELLING, OFFERING YOUNG READERS AN ADVENTUROUS YET INTROSPECTIVE NARRATIVE.

SET ON THE ISLANDS OF THE SOUTH PACIFIC, THE BOOK REFLECTS A FASCINATION WITH POLYNESIAN CULTURE AND MYTHOLOGY, THOUGH IT IS IMPORTANT TO RECOGNIZE THE LENS THROUGH WHICH SPERRY VIEWED THESE CULTURES—AS AN OUTSIDER. DESPITE THIS, THE STORY OFFERS A RESPECTFUL PORTRAYAL OF ISLAND LIFE, TRADITIONS, AND THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT, WHICH ENRICHES THE NARRATIVE TEXTURE AND PROVIDES EDUCATIONAL VALUE.

THE NARRATIVE AND THEMATIC ANALYSIS

AT ITS CORE, CALL IT COURAGE BY ARMSTRONG SPERRY IS A COMING-OF-AGE STORY. THE PROTAGONIST, MAFATU, IS A BOY OSTRACIZED BY HIS TRIBE DUE TO HIS FEAR OF THE SEA, A SIGNIFICANT HANDICAP IN A CULTURE DEPENDENT ON FISHING AND SEAFARING. THIS FEAR SYMBOLIZES A BROADER HUMAN STRUGGLE WITH COURAGE AND SELF-ACCEPTANCE.

CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT AND PSYCHOLOGICAL DEPTH

MAFATU'S JOURNEY IS EMBLEMATIC OF THE UNIVERSAL QUEST FOR BRAVERY. HIS DECISION TO LEAVE HIS HOME AND FACE THE OCEAN ALONE INITIATES A TRANSFORMATIVE EXPERIENCE. THROUGH TRIALS SUCH AS SURVIVAL IN THE WILDERNESS, ENCOUNTERS WITH WILDLIFE, AND CONFRONTING HIS OWN FEARS, MAFATU EVOLVES FROM A FRIGHTENED BOY INTO A CONFIDENT YOUNG MAN. THIS PSYCHOLOGICAL PROGRESSION IS SKILLFULLY PORTRAYED, ALLOWING READERS TO EMPATHIZE DEEPLY WITH HIS INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL CHALLENGES.

SYMBOLISM AND MOTIFS

THE SEA OPERATES AS A CENTRAL SYMBOL THROUGHOUT THE NOVEL. IT REPRESENTS BOTH MAFATU'S GREATEST FEAR AND THE VAST UNKNOWN THAT HE MUST CONQUER TO GROW. ADDITIONALLY, THE ISLAND ENVIRONMENT—WITH ITS FLORA, FAUNA, AND NATURAL OBSTACLES—SERVES AS A TESTING GROUND FOR RESILIENCE AND ADAPTABILITY. THEMES OF ISOLATION, SELF-RELIANCE, AND MATURATION ARE WOVEN SEAMLESSLY INTO THE NARRATIVE, INVITING READERS TO ENGAGE WITH THESE CONCEPTS ON A PERSONAL LEVEL.

COMPARATIVE PERSPECTIVES AND CULTURAL REPRESENTATION

WHEN COMPARED TO OTHER CHILDREN'S ADVENTURE STORIES OF ITS TIME, *CALL IT COURAGE* BY ARMSTRONG SPERRY STANDS OUT FOR ITS EMPHASIS ON PSYCHOLOGICAL REALISM AND CULTURAL SETTING. UNLIKE PURELY FICTIONAL OR FANTASTICAL TALES, SPERRY'S WORK GROUNDS ITS ADVENTURE IN A TANGIBLE WORLD WITH CULTURAL SPECIFICITY.

HOWEVER, MODERN READERS AND SCHOLARS OFTEN CRITIQUE THE NOVEL FOR ITS PORTRAYAL OF POLYNESIAN CULTURE THROUGH A WESTERN PERSPECTIVE. WHILE THE STORY IS RESPECTFUL AND WELL-RESEARCHED, IT OCCASIONALLY REFLECTS THE EXOTICISM TYPICAL OF EARLY 20TH-CENTURY WESTERN LITERATURE. THIS CONTEXT IS IMPORTANT FOR EDUCATORS AND READERS TO CONSIDER, ESPECIALLY WHEN USING THE BOOK AS A CULTURAL LEARNING TOOL.

EDUCATIONAL RELEVANCE

CALL IT COURAGE IS FREQUENTLY INCLUDED IN SCHOOL CURRICULA FOR ITS RICH NARRATIVE AND MORAL LESSONS. IT ENCOURAGES DISCUSSIONS ON BRAVERY, FEAR, AND PERSONAL GROWTH. FURTHERMORE, THE NOVEL INTRODUCES YOUNG READERS TO PACIFIC ISLANDER CULTURE AND GEOGRAPHY, ALBEIT WITH THE CAVEATS MENTIONED. TEACHERS OFTEN SUPPLEMENT THE READING WITH CONTEMPORARY RESOURCES TO PROVIDE A MORE ROUNDED UNDERSTANDING OF POLYNESIAN LIFE AND HISTORY.

LITERARY STYLE AND ILLUSTRATIONS

ARMSTRONG SPERRY'S BACKGROUND AS BOTH AUTHOR AND ILLUSTRATOR LENDS A DISTINCTIVE QUALITY TO *CALL IT COURAGE*. HIS PROSE IS CLEAR, ACCESSIBLE, AND EVOCATIVE, WELL-SUITED TO YOUNG READERS WHILE NOT UNDERESTIMATING THEIR CAPACITY FOR COMPLEX THEMES. THE DESCRIPTIVE PASSAGES VIVIDLY DEPICT THE ISLAND'S NATURAL BEAUTY AND THE PROTAGONIST'S EMOTIONAL LANDSCAPE.

ILLUSTRATIONS ARE SPARSE BUT IMPACTFUL, COMPLEMENTING THE TEXT AND ENHANCING THE IMMERSIVE EXPERIENCE. SPERRY'S ARTWORK HELPS VISUALIZE THE SETTING AND CHARACTERS, ADDING AN EXTRA DIMENSION THAT ENRICHES THE STORYTELLING.

PROS AND CONS OF *CALL IT COURAGE* BY ARMSTRONG SPERRY

- **PROS:**

- ENGAGING AND INSPIRING NARRATIVE OF PERSONAL COURAGE.
- RICH CULTURAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL DESCRIPTIONS THAT EDUCATE READERS.
- TIMELESS THEMES OF SELF-DISCOVERY AND RESILIENCE.
- CLEAR AND ACCESSIBLE LANGUAGE SUITABLE FOR MIDDLE-GRADE READERS.

- COMPLEMENTARY ILLUSTRATIONS ENHANCE READER ENGAGEMENT.

- **CONS:**

- PORTRAYAL OF POLYNESIAN CULTURE REFLECTS EARLY 20TH-CENTURY WESTERN PERSPECTIVES, WHICH MIGHT FEEL OUTDATED OR STEREOTYPICAL TODAY.
- THE PACING CAN BE SLOW FOR READERS ACCUSTOMED TO MODERN FAST-PACED CHILDREN'S LITERATURE.
- LIMITED FEMALE CHARACTERS AND PERSPECTIVES WITHIN THE STORY.

LEGACY AND MODERN RECEPTION

DESPITE SOME DATED ASPECTS, *CALL IT COURAGE* BY ARMSTRONG SPERRY REMAINS A STAPLE IN CHILDREN'S LITERATURE, VALUED FOR ITS PIONEERING APPROACH TO ADVENTURE AND PSYCHOLOGICAL EXPLORATION. THE NOVEL'S ABILITY TO ENGAGE READERS IN A DIALOGUE ABOUT FEAR, COURAGE, AND PERSONAL GROWTH ENSURES ITS CONTINUED RELEVANCE.

MODERN EDITIONS OFTEN INCLUDE FOREWORDS OR AFTERWORDS THAT CONTEXTUALIZE THE STORY CULTURALLY AND HISTORICALLY, HELPING CONTEMPORARY READERS NAVIGATE ITS COMPLEXITIES. THIS PRACTICE ENHANCES THE BOOK'S EDUCATIONAL UTILITY AND CULTURAL SENSITIVITY.

CALL IT COURAGE BY ARMSTRONG SPERRY IS MORE THAN JUST A TALE OF A BOY CONQUERING THE OCEAN—IT IS A LAYERED NARRATIVE THAT CHALLENGES READERS TO CONFRONT THEIR OWN FEARS AND FIND STRENGTH WITHIN. ITS PLACE IN LITERARY HISTORY IS SECURED NOT ONLY BY ITS AWARDS AND LONGEVITY BUT BY ITS ENDURING CAPACITY TO INSPIRE COURAGE IN READERS ACROSS GENERATIONS.

[Call It Courage By Armstrong Sperry](#)

call it courage by armstrong sperry: *Call It Courage* Armstrong Sperry, 1968-05 For use in schools and libraries only. Relates how Mafatu, a young Polynesian boy whose name means Stout Heart, overcomes his terrible fear of the sea and proves his courage to himself and his people.

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2003-05 Scorned by his own seafaring people who worship courage, 15-year-old Mafatu is determined to conquer his fear of the sea. The Newbery Award-winning book is now available in this summer reading program edition.

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call it courage by armstrong sperry: *Dust Off the Gold Medal* Sara L. Schwebel, Jocelyn Van Tuyl, 2021-08-23 The oldest and most prestigious children's literature award, the Newbery Medal has since 1922 been granted annually by the American Library Association to the children's book it deems most distinguished. Medal books enjoy an outsized influence on American children's literature, figuring perennially on publishers' lists, on library and bookstore shelves, and in school curricula. As such, they offer a compelling window into the history of US children's literature and publishing, as well as into changing societal attitudes about which books are best for America's schoolchildren. Yet literary scholars have disproportionately ignored the Medal winners in their research. This volume provides a critically- and historically-grounded scholarly analysis of representative but understudied Newbery Medal books from the 1920s through the 2010s, interrogating the disjunction between the books' omnipresence and influence, on the one hand, and the critical silence surrounding them, on the other. *Dust Off the Gold Medal* makes a case for closing these scholarly gaps by revealing neglected texts' insights into the politics of children's literature prizing and by demonstrating how neglected titles illuminate critical debates currently central to the field of children's literature. In particular, the essays shed light on the hidden elements of diversity apparent in the neglected Newbery canon while illustrating how the books respond—sometimes in quite subtle ways—to contemporaneous concerns around race, class, gender, disability, nationalism, and globalism.

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