

kick by walter dean myers

Kick by Walter Dean Myers: A Powerful Exploration of Dreams, Identity, and Resilience

kick by walter dean myers is a gripping young adult novel that captivates readers with its authentic portrayal of adolescence, ambition, and the struggles that come with pursuing one's dreams. Known for his compelling storytelling and deep understanding of young people's lives, Walter Dean Myers delivers a narrative that feels both personal and universal. In this article, we will dive into the essence of Kick, explore its themes, characters, and the impact it has on readers, as well as discuss why this book remains a significant piece in contemporary young adult literature.

Understanding Kick by Walter Dean Myers

Kick centers around the life of a young protagonist whose journey is shaped by his passion for soccer and the challenges he faces in his everyday environment. Walter Dean Myers, a prolific author renowned for his realistic and empathetic depiction of urban youth, uses Kick to shed light on issues such as identity, perseverance, and the quest for self-worth.

The Storyline and Setting

Set against the backdrop of a tough urban neighborhood, the story follows the protagonist's dreams of excelling in soccer—a sport that offers him a sense of freedom and hope. The narrative doesn't just focus on the game itself but delves into the protagonist's internal conflicts, family dynamics, and the social pressures he encounters. This rich context adds layers to the story, making it relatable to readers from diverse backgrounds.

Character Development and Growth

One of the standout features of Kick by Walter Dean Myers is the depth of its characters. The main character is portrayed with nuance—his vulnerabilities, strengths, and doubts are all laid bare. This complexity allows readers to connect with him on a personal level, fostering empathy and understanding. Supporting characters also contribute significantly to the protagonist's development, reflecting realistic relationships and influences that shape his journey.

Themes Explored in Kick by Walter Dean Myers

Walter Dean Myers is known for tackling important social and personal themes, and Kick is no exception. The novel explores several key ideas that resonate especially with young adults navigating their own paths.

Pursuing Dreams Amidst Challenges

At its core, *Kick* is about chasing one's dreams despite obstacles. The protagonist's dedication to soccer symbolizes the universal struggle to hold onto hope and ambition when life's circumstances are less than ideal. Readers witness how passion and hard work can provide a sense of purpose and direction, even in difficult environments.

Identity and Self-Discovery

Another central theme in *Kick* is the exploration of identity. The protagonist grapples with questions about who he is beyond his athletic talent, wrestling with societal expectations and personal insecurities. This journey toward self-awareness is portrayed with honesty, making it a powerful narrative for readers who may be facing similar questions in their own lives.

Resilience and Overcoming Adversity

Resilience shines throughout the story as the protagonist confronts setbacks, doubts, and external pressures. Walter Dean Myers underscores the importance of grit and determination, illustrating that setbacks do not define a person's future but rather provide opportunities for growth.

Why *Kick* by Walter Dean Myers Resonates with Readers

Kick's enduring popularity can be attributed to its authentic voice and relatable themes. Here are some reasons why the book leaves a lasting impression:

- **Realistic portrayal of adolescence:** The struggles and triumphs depicted feel genuine and heartfelt.
- **Inspiration through sports:** Soccer serves as a metaphor for life's challenges, making the story accessible to sports enthusiasts and non-sports readers alike.
- **Rich cultural and social context:** The urban setting and family dynamics provide insight into environments that many young people experience.
- **Encouragement of self-reflection:** Readers are prompted to consider their own dreams and the obstacles they face.

Impact on Young Adult Literature

Walter Dean Myers has been a pivotal figure in diversifying young adult literature, and *Kick* is a testament to his ability to tell stories that matter. The novel invites conversations about race, class, and opportunity, broadening the scope of voices and experiences in literature aimed at young readers. Its inclusion in many school curriculums and reading programs highlights its educational value and relevance.

Tips for Reading and Discussing *Kick* by Walter Dean Myers

Whether you're a student, educator, or casual reader, engaging deeply with *Kick* can be rewarding. Here are some tips to enhance your reading experience:

1. **Reflect on personal connections:** Think about moments in your life when you faced challenges similar to the protagonist's.
2. **Discuss with others:** Sharing perspectives can uncover new insights about the themes and characters.
3. **Explore the role of sports:** Consider how soccer symbolizes more than just a game in the story.
4. **Examine social themes:** Pay attention to how the novel addresses issues like peer pressure, family relationships, and societal expectations.

Using *Kick* in Educational Settings

Educators often find *Kick* by Walter Dean Myers a valuable resource for sparking discussions about resilience, identity, and goal-setting. The novel's accessible language and relatable protagonist make it an excellent choice for classroom reading, encouraging students to explore complex themes in an approachable way.

Final Thoughts on *Kick* by Walter Dean Myers

Kick by Walter Dean Myers is more than just a story about soccer; it's a heartfelt exploration of growing up, finding oneself, and striving toward a dream despite obstacles. The book's authentic voice, compelling characters, and meaningful themes make it a standout work in young adult literature. For readers looking to experience a story that combines hope, struggle, and passion with vivid storytelling, *Kick* offers an unforgettable

journey.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the main theme of 'Kick' by Walter Dean Myers?

The main theme of 'Kick' is the journey of self-discovery and personal growth as the protagonist navigates the challenges of adolescence and identity through his passion for soccer.

Who is the protagonist in 'Kick' and what is his background?

The protagonist of 'Kick' is a young boy named Nate who is passionate about soccer and struggles with his cultural identity and family expectations.

How does soccer influence the character development in 'Kick'?

Soccer serves as a catalyst for Nate's confidence and helps him build friendships, overcome obstacles, and find a sense of belonging throughout the story.

What challenges does Nate face in 'Kick' by Walter Dean Myers?

Nate faces challenges such as peer pressure, cultural identity conflicts, family expectations, and the pressure to succeed both on and off the soccer field.

What messages does Walter Dean Myers convey through 'Kick'?

Walter Dean Myers conveys messages about perseverance, the importance of following one's passion, understanding identity, and the value of resilience in the face of adversity.

Is 'Kick' by Walter Dean Myers suitable for young readers?

Yes, 'Kick' is suitable for young readers, especially middle school and early high school students, as it addresses relatable themes like identity, friendship, and ambition in an accessible and engaging way.

Additional Resources

Kick by Walter Dean Myers: A Powerful Exploration of Identity and Ambition in Youth Literature

kick by walter dean myers stands as a compelling contribution to contemporary young adult literature, offering a nuanced portrayal of adolescence, ambition, and identity. As a celebrated author known for his authentic voice and dedication to representing African American youth, Myers crafts a narrative that resonates deeply with readers navigating the complex terrain of growing up. This book not only reflects the struggles and aspirations of its protagonist but also highlights broader societal themes relevant to today's readers.

In-depth Analysis of Kick by Walter Dean Myers

Walter Dean Myers' *Kick* intricately explores the life of a young boy, whose journey toward self-definition is intertwined with his passion for soccer. The novel's core lies in its exploration of ambition—how the protagonist balances dreams of athletic success with the realities of his environment. Myers' storytelling is marked by its realism, avoiding romanticized depictions and instead presenting a grounded perspective on youth challenges.

The narrative's strength lies in its character development. Myers uses first-person narration to immerse readers in the protagonist's inner world, revealing his hopes, doubts, and moments of growth. This approach not only humanizes the character but also allows readers to see the complexities of adolescence through his eyes. The theme of identity—racial, cultural, and personal—is woven throughout the story, aligning with Myers' broader literary focus on the African American experience.

Themes and Motifs in Kick by Walter Dean Myers

One of the central themes in *Kick* is the pursuit of dreams amid adversity. The protagonist's love for soccer symbolizes more than a hobby; it represents an avenue for self-expression and a potential escape from socioeconomic constraints. Myers deftly portrays the tension between external pressures and internal desires, a common conflict faced by many young readers.

Another prominent theme is the significance of mentorship and community support. Throughout the novel, relationships with family members, coaches, and peers play a vital role in shaping the protagonist's path. This emphasis underscores the importance of guidance and encouragement in nurturing talent and resilience.

Furthermore, *Kick* addresses issues of racial identity and social expectations. Myers does not shy away from depicting the challenges faced by African American youth in predominantly white sports environments, highlighting experiences of exclusion and stereotyping. This aspect adds depth and realism, inviting readers to reflect on broader conversations about race and representation in athletics.

Comparative Perspectives: Kick and Other Works by Walter Dean Myers

When compared to other Walter Dean Myers novels such as **Monster** and **Fallen Angels**, *Kick* maintains a consistent focus on young protagonists grappling with identity and societal pressures. However, while **Monster** delves into the criminal justice system and **Fallen Angels** explores the Vietnam War's impact on youth, *Kick* centers on sports as a vehicle for personal development.

This shift in setting enriches Myers' oeuvre by highlighting different facets of adolescent experience. The sports context allows for examination of teamwork, competition, and physical discipline, adding layers to the themes of ambition and identity. The portrayal of soccer, a sport gaining popularity in the United States, also situates the book within a contemporary cultural framework.

Features and Literary Techniques in Kick by Walter Dean Myers

Myers employs several literary techniques that enhance the novel's impact. His use of vivid, concise prose captures the immediacy of the protagonist's experiences, making the narrative accessible to a young adult audience. The pacing is deliberate, balancing moments of introspection with action sequences on the soccer field.

Dialogue is another key feature, serving to reveal character dynamics and cultural context. Myers' skillful rendering of authentic speech patterns contributes to the novel's realism. Additionally, the use of internal monologue allows readers insight into the protagonist's evolving mindset, providing emotional depth.

The novel's structure supports its themes effectively. Short chapters and straightforward language facilitate engagement, especially for reluctant readers or those new to literary fiction. This accessibility is part of Myers' broader commitment to reaching diverse audiences and encouraging literacy.

Pros and Cons of Kick by Walter Dean Myers

- **Pros:**

- Authentic depiction of youth and ambition
- Strong representation of African American identity
- Engaging narrative with relatable protagonist
- Accessible language suitable for young adult readers

- Exploration of sports as a metaphor for personal growth

- **Cons:**

- Some readers may find the pacing slow in parts
- Lacks extensive exploration of female perspectives
- Soccer-specific terminology may be unfamiliar to some audiences

Impact and Relevance of *Kick* by Walter Dean Myers in Youth Literature

Kick by Walter Dean Myers contributes significantly to conversations around representation and diversity in young adult literature. Its focus on a Black protagonist navigating both cultural identity and athletic ambition offers a fresh perspective that broadens the scope of stories available to young readers. The novel invites empathy and understanding, encouraging readers to consider the varied paths youth take in pursuit of their dreams.

Moreover, by centering soccer—a sport with global appeal—Myers taps into a universal theme of aspiration that transcends cultural boundaries. This choice enhances the novel's relevance, appealing to a broad demographic and reflecting the growing popularity of soccer in the United States.

The book's inclusion in educational settings further attests to its value. Teachers and librarians often recommend *Kick* for discussions around identity, perseverance, and the importance of supportive communities. Its realistic portrayal of adolescence makes it a useful tool for fostering dialogue about race, ambition, and personal challenges.

In sum, *Kick* by Walter Dean Myers stands as a thoughtfully crafted work that combines literary quality with cultural significance. Its examination of youth ambition through the lens of sports and identity offers insights that resonate long after the final page, securing its place in the canon of influential young adult literature.

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kick by walter dean myers: *Kick* Walter Dean Myers, Ross Workman, 2011-02-01 For the very first time in his decades-long career writing for teens, acclaimed and beloved author Walter Dean Myers writes with a teen, Ross Workman. Kevin Johnson is thirteen years old. And heading for juvie.

He's a good kid, a great friend, and a star striker for his Highland, New Jersey, soccer team. His team is competing for the State Cup, and he wants to prove he has more than just star-player potential. Kevin's never been in any serious trouble . . . until the night he ends up in jail. Enter Sergeant Brown, a cop assigned to be Kevin's mentor. If Kevin and Brown can learn to trust each other, they might be able to turn things around before it's too late.

kick by walter dean myers: **Kick** Walter Dean Myers,

kick by walter dean myers: **Walter Dean Myers** Elizabeth Hoover, 2014-01-30 Walter Dean Myers was a prolific author, penning over one hundred young adult and children's books. According to the American Library Association, Myers won the Coretta Scott King Book Award six times. This informative edition covers the life of author Walter Dean Myers. The book spans Myers' troubled childhood in Harlem, through his rise as an editor at a publishing house, and finally delves into his work as an author. Readers will learn about how Myers overcame racism and learning disabilities to become an award-winning author.

kick by walter dean myers: The Get Over Walter Dean Myers, 2013-05-07 From beloved author Walter Dean Myers, this original 20-page short story serves as a prequel to his award-winning novel *Monster*, which has been read and loved by millions of readers. Word on the street is that a robbery is about to go down in Harlem, and Steve Harmon is right in the middle of it. Everyone is trying to prove who's the toughest. Steve gets caught up in the talk and wonders about the difference between right and wrong. Should he turn these guys in? Stay quiet? What choice will Steve make? Walter Dean Myers was the New York Times bestselling author of *Monster*, the winner of the first Michael L. Printz Award; a former National Ambassador for Young People's Literature; and an inaugural NYC Literary Honoree. Myers received every single major award in the field of children's literature. He was the author of two Newbery Honor Books and six Coretta Scott King Awardees. He was the recipient of the Margaret A. Edwards Award for lifetime achievement in writing for young adults, a three-time National Book Award Finalist, as well as the first-ever recipient of the Coretta Scott King-Virginia Hamilton Award for Lifetime Achievement. Epic Reads Impulse is a digital imprint with new releases each month.

kick by walter dean myers: *Walter Dean Myers* Denise M. Jordan, 2013-01-01 Walter Dean Myers tells it like it is in his award-winning novels about urban teenagers with real problems. With humor and a keen ear for dialogue, Myers creates characters that speak directly to today's teens. As a young reader, Myers could not find books about African-American boys like himself. Drawing upon his own struggles and experiences, he has filled that literary gap with fascinating novels filled with realistic stories that appeal to readers of all backgrounds and cultures.

kick by walter dean myers: Walter Dean Myers Mary Ellen Snodgrass, 2015-01-24 Walter Dean Myers, preeminent author of teen fiction biography and verse, refines the image of black characters that are frequently trivialized or vilified in juvenile literature, advertising, television, and film. From his saga *The Glory Field* to his novel *The Young Landlords*, Myers's canon surveys the complex realm of the teen years as colliding settings in home, school, and the street. This volume introduces readers to both the writer and his work, with an emphasis on the characters, dates, events, motifs, and themes from the books. Myers's 101 A-to-Z entries offer concise, analytical discussion on all topics and include generous citations from primary and secondary sources. Each entry concludes with a selected bibliography on such subjects as segregation, Malcolm X, urbanism, writing, metafiction, drugs and alcohol, slavery, and the Vietnam War. Appendices offer a timeline of historical events in Myers's writings and forty topics for group or individual projects, oral analysis, background material, and theme development. A map of Harlem (where many of the stories are set), genealogical diagrams for characters, and an author chronology contribute to a comprehensive presentation.

kick by walter dean myers: Football in Fiction Lee McGowan, 2019-09-26 *Football in Fiction* represents the most comprehensive historical mapping and analysis of novels related to association football (soccer). It offers a theoretically informed field guide, a scholarly cartography of football fiction's uncertain – and until now – only partially explored terrain. Combining an extensive search

for texts with up-to-date academic research, journals, surveys, catalogues, and reviews the book demonstrates a topographic perspective of the field – one that captures and establishes its breadth, depth, and distinctive identity. The book uses and adapts two distinct reading models of abstraction, in conjunction with closer textual analyses. Together they assist in realising a set of demonstrable conventions, outline a taxonomy of fictive types, establish the genre's current state of play, and advance the football novel as a form with its own literary history and traditions. This book is a valuable resource for those studying and researching in the areas of the social and cultural aspects of football, sports fiction, sports writing, creative writing, and literary and genre studies. Furthermore, related industry professionals will find this a fascinating read, particularly football writers, fans of the sport, and those interested in sports history and cultural phenomena.

kick by walter dean myers: Here in Harlem Walter Dean Myers, 2018-01-01 An excellent introduction to poetry, social issues, and memoirs; and a wonderful complement to Live Oak's 2008 Odyssey Award winner, *Jazz* (also written by Myers).-Booklist

kick by walter dean myers: The Common Core Approach to Building Literacy in Boys Liz Knowles, Martha Smith, 2014-05-27 Written with a focus on the English Language Arts Common Core Standards, this book provides a complete plan for developing a literacy program that focuses on boys pre-K through grade 12. Despite the fact that reading and literacy among boys has been an area of concern for years, this issue remains unresolved today. Additionally, the emphasis and focus have changed due to the implementation of the English Language Arts Common Core Standards. How can educators best encourage male students to read, and what new technologies and techniques can serve this objective? *The Common Core Approach to Building Literacy in Boys* is an essential resource and reference for teachers, librarians, and parents seeking to encourage reading in boys from preschool to 12th grade. Providing a wide array of useful, up-to-date information that emphasizes the English Language Arts Common Core Standards, the bibliographies and descriptions of effective strategies in this book will enable you to boost reading interest and performance in boys. The chapters cover 16 different topics of interest to boys, all accompanied by a complete bibliography for each subject area, discussion questions, writing connections, and annotated new and classic nonfiction titles. Information on specific magazines, annotated professional titles, books made into film, websites, and apps that will help you get boys interested in reading is also included.

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kick by walter dean myers: *The Funniest People in Books and Music* David Bruce, 2005-11-01 *The Funniest People Who Write Books and Make Music* contains such anecdotes as these: When Peg Bracken started writing, she would often type the first page of a famous short story for inspiration. Often, she discovered that the page did not look as impressive typed on a sheet of paper as it did printed on a page in a book, so sometimes she would imitate her English professor and write on the sheet of paper: 'You can do better than this, Mr. Faulkner. Andri Previn played jazz with a couple of American-African musicians. Afterwards, he went into a diner, where two white men asked him, 'Why the hell don't you play with your own kind? Mr. Previn replied, 'To tell you the truth, I wanted to, but I couldn't find two other Jews who swing. Soccer and Cup Final day are important in England. Once, the noted conductor Sir Thomas Beecham held a rehearsal on Cup Final day. The rehearsal had been going on for only a short time when a giant television was delivered to the rehearsal area. Sir Thomas then said, 'Now, gentlemen, let's get down to the most important business of the day-watching the match.

kick by walter dean myers: Fast Sam, Cool Clyde, and Stuff Walter Dean Myers, 1988-04-01

Stuff doesn't know anyone when he first moves to 116th Street. But all of that changes when he meets Fast Sam, Cool Clyde, and Gloria. Stuff and the gang grow close that eventful year, and nothing is ever like it again. That's the year modern science gets them all in jail; Stuff falls in love and is unfaithful; and Cool Clyde and Fast Sam win the dance contest-almost.

kick by walter dean myers: 145th Street: Short Stories Walter Dean Myers, 2012-02-14 From the award-winning author of *Monster*, this collection of powerful and poignant stories about 145th Street—an unforgettable block in the heart of Harlem—celebrates African-American life in all of its glory. Myers is a master. —The New York Times Book Review On Harlem's 145th Street, things happen that don't happen anywhere else in the world. Get to know Big Joe, who's throwing his own funeral while he's here to enjoy it, and everyone's invited. Meet Kitty and Mack, teens with a love story more real than anything they've ever known. Follow Monkeyman, the quietest kid on the block and the last person you'd expect the Tigros gang to target. And don't miss the block party of the year--the whole neighborhood will be there. From danger and despair to hilarity and joy, literary legend Walter Dean Myers captures every mood and every beat of life in this vibrant Harlem. This twentieth-anniversary edition of Myers's work features brand-new content, including historical information about Harlem's rich past, an immersive map of the neighborhood's iconic landmarks, and touching tributes from authors, artists, and literary legends. Celebrating two decades in print, this edition honors Myers's enormous legacy and brings his work to a new generation of readers. An ALA-YALSA Best Book for Young Adults AWARDS FOR WALTER DEAN MYERS: New York Times Bestselling Author 3-Time National Book Award Finalist Michael L. Printz Award 5 Coretta Scott King Awards 2 Newbery Honors National Ambassador for Young People's Literature (2012-2013) Margaret A. Edwards Award for Lifetime Achievement Children's Literature Legacy Award

kick by walter dean myers: Sunrise Over Fallujah Walter Dean Myers, 2010-02-01 Robin Birdy Perry, a new army recruit from Harlem, isn't quite sure why he joined the army, but he's sure where he's headed: Iraq. Birdy and the others in the Civilian Affairs Battalion are supposed to help secure and stabilize the country and successfully interact with the Iraqi people. Officially, the code name for their maneuvers is Operation Iraqi Freedom. But the young men and women in the CA unit have a simpler name for it: WAR

kick by walter dean myers: Invasion Walter Dean Myers, 2013-09-24 Walter Dean Myers brilliantly renders the realities of World War II. Josiah Wedgewood and Marcus Perry are on their way to an uncertain future. Their whole lives are ahead of them, yet at the same time, death's whisper is everywhere. One white, one black, these young men have nothing in common and everything in common as they approach an experience that will change them forever. It's May 1944. World War II is ramping up, and so are these young recruits, ready and eager. In small towns and big cities all over the globe, people are filled with fear. When Josiah and Marcus come together in what will be the greatest test of their lives, they learn hard lessons about race, friendship, and what it really means to fight. Set on the front lines of the Normandy invasion, this novel, rendered with heart-in-the-throat precision, is a cinematic masterpiece. Here we see the bold terror of war, and also the nuanced havoc that affects a young person's psyche while living in a barrack, not knowing if today he will end up dead or alive.

kick by walter dean myers: Walter Dean Myers Diane Patrick-Wexler, 1996 Presents the life and career of the Afro-American who grew up listening to stories and who carries on the storytelling tradition in his numerous and award-winning books.

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nonfiction Excerpted pages from Walter's own notebooks An afterword by Ross Workman, Walter's teen coauthor of *Kick* Writing tips from both Walter and Ross Anyone can be a writer, with a little help from Walter Dean Myers!

kick by walter dean myers: All the Right Stuff Walter Dean Myers, 2012-04-24 New York Times bestselling author Walter Dean Myers tackles the social contract from a teen's perspective in his novel *All the Right Stuff*. In one of his most thought-provoking novels to date, Myers weaves together political philosophy, basketball, and making soup in Harlem, with the depth that defines his writing career. After his father is shot and killed, Paul Dupree finds a summer job at a Harlem soup kitchen. Elijah, the soup man, questions Paul about tough life choices, even though Paul would rather be playing basketball. Over the summer, Paul begins to understand the importance of taking control of your life. *All the Right Stuff* includes a Q&A between Walter Dean Myers and Ross Workman, coauthor of *Kick*.

kick by walter dean myers: The Outside Shot Walter Dean Myers, 2008-12-18 New Ebook Bonus Content: -Book Group Discussion Questions -Q&A with screenwriter John Ballard -Excerpt from *Hoops* -Excerpt from *145th Street* -Excerpt from *On a Clear Day When Lonnie Jackson* leaves Harlem to take a basketball scholarship at a midwestern college, he knows he must keep his head straight and his record clean. That's the only way he'll have a chance of making it to the pros someday. But his street smarts haven't prepared him for the pressures of tough classes, high-stakes college ball, and the temptation to fix games for local gamblers. Everyone plays by a whole new set of rules -- including Sherry, who's determined to be a track star. Her independence attracts Lonnie, but their on-again, off-again relationship is driving him crazy. Lonnie has one year to learn how to make it as a college man. It's his outside shot at a bright future. Does he have what it takes?

kick by walter dean myers: Fallen Angels Walter Dean Myers, 2025-05-06 In this classic coming of age novel from a New York Times-bestselling author, an American teenager faces the gritty reality of the Vietnam War. Winner of the Coretta Scott King Award in 1988 "Heartbreaking. . . Other authors have gotten the details right, but Myers reaches into the minds of the soldiers. . . Readers, including those born after the fall of Saigon . . . will reel from the human consequences of battle." —Publishers Weekly (boxed review) It's 1967, and Harlem teenager Richie Perry is graduating from high school. He dreams of attending college and becoming a writer like James Baldwin. However, reality has other plans. After volunteering for the army, Perry doesn't expect to fight in the Vietnam War, but a paperwork mix-up sends him to the frontlines. Perry and his platoon are soon face-to-face with relentless violence and brutality. One false move can mean the difference between survival and death, whether they are fighting the Vietcong or simply walking through the jungle. Overcome by the horrors, Perry begins questioning everything. What were his motives for joining the army? Why are black troops given the most dangerous missions? Why is the United States even there? Perry and his fellow soldiers may have all come to Vietnam for different reasons, but now they share the same dream—to get home alive. "Recalls Stephen Crane's *The Red Badge of Courage*." —Horn Book (starred review) "As thought-provoking as it is entertaining." —The New York Times "This gut-twisting Vietnam War novel breaks uncharted ground. . . Myers does an outstanding job of re-creating the war." —Booklist (starred review) "Myers masterfully re-creates the combat zone. . . War-story fans will find enough action here, though it isn't glorified; thoughtful readers will be haunted by this tribute to a ravaged generation." —Kirkus Reviews (starred review)

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