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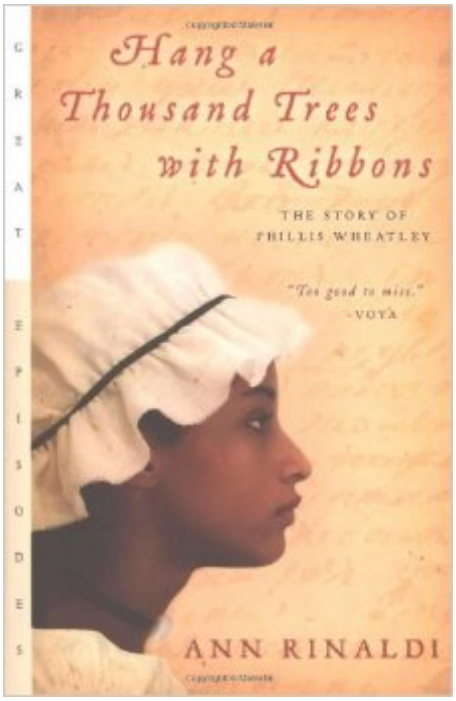
Hang A Thousand Trees With Ribbons: The Story Of Phillis Wheatley (Great Episodes)



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Synopsis

Kidnapped from her home in Senegal and sold as a slave in 1761, Phillis Wheatley--as she comes to be known--stuns her adopted country by becoming America's first published black poet. Includes a reader's guide.

Book Information

Series: Great Episodes

Paperback: 352 pages

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Product Dimensions: 4.5 x 0.9 x 7 inches

Shipping Weight: 6.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 starsÂ Â See all reviewsÂ (72 customer reviews)

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Age Range: 12 - 14 years

Grade Level: 7 and up

Customer Reviews

At the age of 7, Phillis Wheatley was kidnapped from her home country, Senegal, and was abusively shipped over to America along with her mother and friend. Although she drifted apart from her family, Phillis was bought and taken in by the rich Wheatley household. There, her master and lady treated her like family, and she luckily found an education at the household, taught to her by Nathaniel, the master's son. Over the years, her intelligence expanded and she began to write amazing poems by the age of 12, later becoming the first black poet to publish her own book. Even though her name became well known among the wealth, she was still treated differently which caused difficulties for her. Through this story, I have learned as a reader, the complications Phillis experiences and her triumph of becoming the first black poet.There are truly many wonderfully written parts of this historical fiction book, but among my favorites are the times when Nathaniel and Phillis were together. This starting from the first time she walked through the house, to the moments

when he first taught her to read. Being 10 years older than Phillis, Nathaniel acted as a close brother to her, unlike how masters normally interacted with their slaves. There were also times when Nathaniel and Phillis would tease each other, which would leave the reader thinking if Phillis really was a slave. Because of these significant moments, I found the book to be much more interesting.As a piece of historical fiction, I was able to understand how some masters treated their slaves. For a fact, I know that most didn't treat their slaves with such care as the Wheatleys did to Phillis. So, it was especially interesting to know that Nathaniel had spent his free time teaching Phillis.

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