

Blue Sky White Stars



Author:
Sarvinder Naberhaus

Illustrator:
Kadir Nelson

Awards

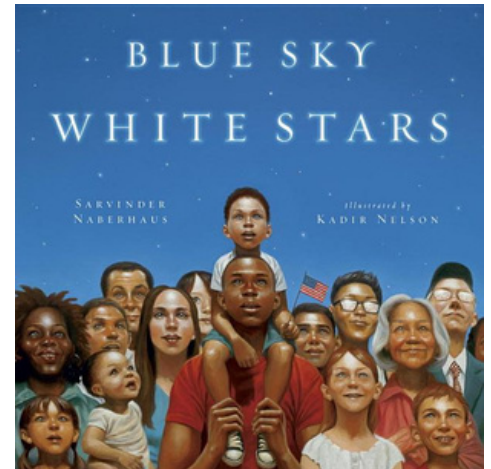
ALSC Notable Children's Books, 2018
Cooperative Children's Book Center (CCBC) Choices, 2018
ILA Teachers' Choices Reading List, 2018
Notable Poetry and Verse Novels, 2018

Vocabulary

glory, woven, freedom

Reviews

[Publishers Weekly](#)- starred review



Summary

This richly illustrated, sparse-text picture book weaves together poetic language to celebrate the American flag and explore what it means to be an American.

FAIR Standard

DV.3-5.10 I am grateful that America is a place where people share important convictions even though they come from different backgrounds.

Discussion

1. What do you think it means to be an American? Ask a family member or a friend what they think it means to be an American.
2. The author writes, "Sew together/won nation" and "So together/one nation" with two different images. What holds us together?
3. Look at the picture of the grandfather and boy with the words *All American*. On her author [website](#), Sarvinder Naberhaus writes, "*All American* is a term that refers to things that are symbolic of everyday American life." What comes to your mind when you think of the term?

Discussion

4. The rights we have as Americans, as outlined in the Declaration of Independence, are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. What are some examples of freedoms we enjoy today shown throughout this book?
 5. The illustrator, Kadir Nelson, writes, “With each painting, I was inspired to remind readers of the resilience of American principles, and that as we continue to push forward, our strength lies in our willingness to embrace our differences.” Which illustration do you think best shows this? Why?
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Activities

1. Create your own American flag using red, white and blue items such as flowers, cotton balls or paper.

Challenge: Create a concrete poem by composing the outline or shape of your flag using words or phrases that come to mind.



2. Many of the illustrations in the book use the same words to show two different meanings. Choose one of the phrases and create your own picture to show what it means to you.
3. Weave your own version of an American flag, also known as “Old Glory”, using one of the resources below:

[Weaving Projects for Kids](#)

[20 Wonderful Weaving Activities for All Ages](#)