

the people could fly

the people could fly is a phrase that evokes powerful images of freedom, resilience, and hope, deeply rooted in African American folklore and literature. This article explores the origins of "the people could fly," delving into its historical context, literary adaptations, and enduring legacy. Readers will discover how this captivating folktale became a symbol of resistance during slavery, its transformation into a modern classic through Virginia Hamilton's acclaimed children's book, and its influence on cultural identity and the arts. The article also examines the tale's themes, interpretations, and impact on subsequent generations, making it a rich resource for educators, students, and anyone interested in American folklore. By the end, readers will gain a comprehensive understanding of "the people could fly," its place in history, and why it continues to inspire today.

- Origins of "The People Could Fly" Folktale
- Historical Context and Symbolism
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- Major Themes in "The People Could Fly"
- Impact on African American Culture
- Educational Uses and Interpretations
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Origins of "The People Could Fly" Folktale

The story of "the people could fly" originated from African American oral traditions, passed down through generations during and after the era of slavery in the United States. These folktales often blended African spiritual beliefs with the harsh realities faced by enslaved people, creating powerful narratives that offered hope and inspiration. "The people could fly" centers around enslaved Africans who possess the magical ability to fly away from their oppressors, symbolizing escape and liberation. The tale is believed to have roots in West African myths, where flight often represents freedom, transcendence, and spiritual power. Storytellers used this legend to encourage perseverance, subtly conveying messages of resistance and

resilience. Its enduring popularity showcases the richness of African American folklore and the importance of oral storytelling in preserving cultural heritage.

Historical Context and Symbolism

"The people could fly" holds deep historical significance, reflecting the experiences and aspirations of enslaved Africans in America. The folktale emerged during a time when physical and psychological oppression was widespread, and stories became a vital means of survival. Flight in the tale is both literal and metaphorical, representing the ultimate escape from bondage, as well as spiritual elevation and hope. The narrative uses magical realism to address themes of resistance, the longing for freedom, and the strength found in communal bonds. Symbolism is central to the story, with flight serving as a metaphor for transcendence over adversity and the ability to reclaim dignity and autonomy. Scholars have noted that such tales contributed to the preservation of African culture and spirituality, even under the most oppressive circumstances.

Virginia Hamilton's Adaptation and Legacy

Virginia Hamilton's 1985 book, "The People Could Fly: American Black Folktales," brought the story to a wider audience and cemented its status as a modern classic. Hamilton, an award-winning author, collected and retold traditional African American folktales, with "The People Could Fly" as the title story. Her adaptation emphasizes the humanity and resilience of the characters, blending lyrical prose with striking illustrations by Leo and Diane Dillon. The book received critical acclaim, winning numerous honors, including the Coretta Scott King Award. Hamilton's work not only preserved the tale but also introduced it to new generations, expanding its influence in literature and education. Her interpretation continues to inspire readers, educators, and artists, highlighting the importance of storytelling in cultural transmission.

Major Themes in "The People Could Fly"

The folktale is renowned for its rich thematic content, making it a valuable resource for literary analysis and classroom discussion. Key themes include freedom, hope, resilience, and the power of community. The magical ability to fly serves as an allegory for spiritual escape, the yearning for liberation, and the enduring belief in miracles. The story also explores the impact of oppression, the importance of ancestral wisdom, and the strength found in solidarity. By weaving together elements of fantasy and reality, "the people could fly" addresses universal questions about human dignity and the pursuit of justice. These themes remain relevant today, offering meaningful insights for readers of all ages.

- Freedom and Escape from Oppression

- Hope and Spiritual Transcendence
- Resilience in the Face of Adversity
- Community and Shared Struggle
- Connection to Ancestral Heritage

Impact on African American Culture

"The people could fly" has played a significant role in shaping African American cultural identity. The story is often cited as a prime example of the ingenuity and creativity found in Black folklore, serving as a source of pride and inspiration. Its themes of resistance and hope resonated deeply among enslaved communities, influencing spirituals, songs, and other forms of artistic expression. The tale has been adapted in various mediums, including literature, theater, visual arts, and music, contributing to a vibrant cultural legacy. Educators and cultural leaders continue to use the story to teach lessons about history, resilience, and the importance of maintaining cultural traditions. Its enduring presence in African American culture underscores the power of storytelling to heal, empower, and unite.

Educational Uses and Interpretations

Educators frequently incorporate "the people could fly" into curriculums focused on American history, literature, and cultural studies. The story provides a framework for discussing slavery, folklore, and the African American experience, allowing students to explore complex themes through a compelling narrative. Teachers use the tale to foster empathy, critical thinking, and cross-cultural understanding, often pairing it with historical accounts and creative activities. Interpretations of the story vary, with some viewing it as a literal myth and others emphasizing its metaphorical significance. Its adaptability makes it an effective tool for engaging diverse learners and promoting discussions about freedom, identity, and social justice.

1. Introducing historical context of slavery and resistance
2. Analyzing themes of hope and resilience in literature
3. Exploring cultural traditions through storytelling
4. Encouraging creative writing and artistic projects

5. Facilitating dialogue on social justice and equity

Influence in Arts and Popular Culture

The folktale has inspired countless artists, writers, and performers, contributing to a rich tradition of creative expression. "The people could fly" has been reimagined in visual art, theater productions, music, and dance, often serving as a symbol of liberation and transformation. Illustrators and performers draw on the story's magical imagery to create works that celebrate Black heritage and resilience. The tale's motifs appear in contemporary literature and media, reflecting its lasting impact on American and global culture. Its influence extends to children's books, graphic novels, and educational media, ensuring that new audiences continue to discover and reinterpret its meaning.

Enduring Relevance of the Folktale

The story of "the people could fly" remains relevant in today's society, offering timeless lessons about freedom, hope, and resistance. Its enduring popularity attests to the universal appeal of stories that celebrate human dignity and the triumph over adversity. As communities continue to grapple with issues of injustice and inequality, the folktale serves as a powerful reminder of the importance of perseverance and the potential for transformation. Scholars, educators, and cultural leaders continue to study and share the tale, ensuring its legacy endures for future generations. "The people could fly" stands as a testament to the transformative power of storytelling and its vital role in shaping cultural consciousness.

Q: What is the origin of "the people could fly" folktale?

A: "The people could fly" originated in African American oral traditions, blending African myths and spiritual beliefs with experiences of slavery and resistance in the United States.

Q: What does the ability to fly symbolize in the story?

A: Flight in the tale symbolizes freedom, escape from oppression, spiritual transcendence, and the hope for liberation among enslaved people.

Q: Who popularized "The People Could Fly" in modern literature?

A: Virginia Hamilton popularized the folktale with her 1985 book "The People Could Fly: American Black

Folktales," bringing it to a wider audience and earning critical acclaim.

Q: What are the main themes in "the people could fly"?

A: The main themes include freedom, hope, resilience, community, and the connection to ancestral heritage, all explored through magical realism and allegory.

Q: How is "the people could fly" used in education?

A: Educators use the story to teach about slavery, African American history, and folklore, fostering empathy, critical thinking, and cross-cultural understanding.

Q: Why is "the people could fly" important to African American culture?

A: The folktale serves as a source of pride, inspiration, and cultural identity, highlighting themes of resistance and hope that resonate deeply within the community.

Q: In what ways has the story influenced the arts?

A: "The people could fly" has inspired visual art, theater, music, and literature, often symbolizing liberation and transformation in creative works.

Q: Is "the people could fly" based on historical events?

A: While not based on specific historical events, the story reflects the real experiences and aspirations of enslaved people, using magical elements to convey deeper truths about freedom and resilience.

Q: What lessons does "the people could fly" offer today?

A: The tale offers lessons about perseverance, the importance of hope, and the power of storytelling to inspire change and unite communities.

Q: How has Virginia Hamilton's adaptation impacted the legacy of the story?

A: Hamilton's adaptation preserved and popularized the tale, introducing it to new generations, expanding its influence in literature, education, and the arts.

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The People Could Fly: Exploring the Power of Myth and Imagination

Introduction:

Have you ever felt the inexplicable pull of a story, a yearning for something beyond the ordinary? "The People Could Fly," a phrase resonant with possibility and defiance, encapsulates this very longing. This blog post delves into the rich tapestry of the phrase "The People Could Fly," exploring its origins, its significance in African American folklore, its symbolism of hope and resilience, and its enduring relevance in contemporary society. We'll examine how the power of myth and imagination allows us to transcend limitations and envision a world where dreams take flight. Prepare to soar beyond the confines of reality as we unpack the potent magic contained within this evocative phrase.

H2: Origins and Interpretations of "The People Could Fly"

The phrase "The People Could Fly" isn't a singular, fixed narrative. Instead, it represents a collective body of oral traditions, primarily within the African American experience. These stories, passed down through generations, recount tales of enslaved people gaining the ability to fly, escaping their bondage through acts of supernatural prowess. These weren't simple escape narratives; they served as powerful tools for resistance, hope, and the preservation of cultural identity amidst unimaginable suffering. The ability to fly symbolized freedom, a transcendence of earthly oppression, and the inherent human spirit's capacity for liberation. Different versions of these stories exist, each adding nuances to the central theme of escaping captivity through extraordinary means.

H3: The Role of Myth and Folklore in the Struggle for Freedom

These narratives are not simply flights of fancy; they are potent examples of how mythology and folklore function as vital mechanisms for coping with trauma and maintaining hope. During slavery, the telling of these stories provided a crucial space for emotional release, a form of collective resistance expressed through the power of imagination. The act of sharing these stories, often in secret, created a sense of community and fostered solidarity amongst enslaved people. They also offered a powerful counter-narrative to the oppressive realities of their existence.

H2: Symbolism and Themes within "The People Could Fly"

The act of flying in these narratives holds multifaceted symbolic significance. It represents:

H3: Freedom and Liberation: The most obvious interpretation is the yearning for physical freedom

from the chains of slavery. Flying symbolizes escape, a breaking free from confinement and oppression.

H3: Spiritual Transcendence: The ability to fly often transcends the purely physical. It speaks to a spiritual liberation, a connection to something greater than the harsh realities of enslavement. It's a journey of the soul, a reaching for a higher power and a sense of belonging beyond the confines of earthly suffering.

H3: Hope and Resilience: Even in the face of unimaginable brutality, the stories of "The People Could Fly" embody unwavering hope and resilience. The stories themselves are acts of resistance, preserving a sense of agency and power in the face of systemic oppression.

H2: "The People Could Fly" in Contemporary Society

The power of "The People Could Fly" extends far beyond its historical context. The phrase has become a potent symbol of empowerment and hope for marginalized communities everywhere. It speaks to the enduring human spirit's ability to transcend adversity and imagine a better future. Contemporary artists, writers, and activists continue to draw inspiration from these stories, using them to explore themes of resilience, social justice, and the importance of preserving cultural heritage.

H2: The Enduring Legacy of Storytelling and Resistance

The enduring popularity of "The People Could Fly" underscores the critical role of storytelling in preserving cultural memory and fostering social change. These narratives serve as powerful reminders of the resilience of the human spirit and the importance of fighting for justice and equality. By passing down these stories, we not only honor the past but also empower future generations to strive for a world where everyone can truly "fly."

Conclusion:

"The People Could Fly" is more than just a phrase; it's a testament to the power of imagination, resilience, and the enduring human spirit. It's a legacy of hope passed down through generations, reminding us of our capacity for transcendence and the importance of fighting for a just and equitable world. The stories embody the strength of the human spirit to overcome adversity and envision a better future, a future where everyone has the freedom to soar.

FAQs:

1. Where can I find more information about the stories behind "The People Could Fly"? You can explore academic works on African American folklore, children's literature featuring adapted versions of these stories, and online resources dedicated to preserving oral traditions.
2. Are there specific authors or books that focus on "The People Could Fly"? While the phrase itself is a collective representation, many authors have drawn inspiration from this theme, weaving variations into their works. Researching African American folklore and literature will reveal numerous examples.

3. How does the symbolism of flying differ across cultures? The symbolism of flight is universally associated with freedom and transcendence, but the specific cultural interpretations can vary considerably. Exploring different mythologies will reveal various nuances.
4. What is the significance of the oral tradition in preserving these stories? The oral tradition was vital during slavery, enabling the transmission of knowledge and cultural identity when formal education was denied. It maintains the stories' emotional power and direct connection to the experiences of the enslaved people.
5. How can we use the power of "The People Could Fly" today to inspire social change? By sharing these stories, amplifying marginalized voices, and promoting social justice initiatives, we can honor the legacy of resilience and work towards a world where everyone can reach their full potential, free from oppression.

the people could fly: *People Could Fly: American Black Folktales* Virginia Hamilton, 1985
Retold Afro-American folktales of animals, fantasy, the supernatural, and desire for freedom, born of the sorrow of the slaves, but passed on in hope.

the people could fly: *The Girl Who Could Fly* Victoria Forester, 2008-06-24 You just can't keep a good girl down . . . unless you use the proper methods. Piper McCloud can fly. Just like that. Easy as pie. Sure, she hasn't mastered reverse propulsion and her turns are kind of sloppy, but she's real good at loop-the-loops. Problem is, the good folk of Lowland County are afraid of Piper. And her ma's at her wit's end. So it seems only fitting that she leave her parents' farm to attend a top-secret, maximum-security school for kids with exceptional abilities. School is great at first with a bunch of new friends whose skills range from super-strength to super-genius. (Plus all the homemade apple pie she can eat!) But Piper is special, even among the special. And there are consequences. Consequences too dire to talk about. Too crazy to consider. And too dangerous to ignore. At turns exhilarating and terrifying, Victoria Forester's debut novel has been praised by Stephenie Meyer, author of the Twilight saga, as the oddest/sweetest mix of Little House on the Prairie and X-Men...Prepare to have your heart warmed. The Girl Who Could Fly is an unforgettable story of defiance and courage about an irrepressible heroine who can, who will, who must . . . fly. This title has Common Core connections. Praise for Victoria Forester and *The Girl Who Could Fly*: It's the oddest/sweetest mix of Little House on the Prairie and X-Men. I was smiling the whole time (except for the part where I cried). I gave it to my mom, and I'm reading it to my kids—it's absolutely multigenerational. Prepare to have your heart warmed. Stephenie Meyer, author of the Twilight saga
In this terrific debut novel, readers meet Piper McCloud, the late-in-life daughter of farmers...The story soars, just like Piper, with enough loop-de-loops to keep kids uncertain about what will come next....Best of all are the book's strong, lightly wrapped messages about friendship and authenticity and the difference between doing well and doing good.--Booklist, Starred Review Forester's disparate settings (down-home farm and futuristic ice-bunker institute) are unified by the rock-solid point of view and unpretentious diction... any child who has felt different will take strength from Piper's fight to be herself against the tide of family, church, and society.--The Horn Book Review
The Girl Who Could Fly is a 2009 Bank Street - Best Children's Book of the Year.

the people could fly: *The People Could Fly* Ann Malaspina, 2013-08 African American slaves in the old South dream of escape from their hardships by flying away.

the people could fly: *If These Wings Could Fly* Kyrie McCauley, 2020-03-03 Perfect for fans of Laura Ruby, Laurie Halse Anderson, and Mindy McGinnis, Kyrie McCauley's stunning YA debut is a powerful story about the haunting specter of domestic violence and the rebellious forces of sisterhood and first love. Winner of the William C. Morris Award! Tens of thousands of crows invading Auburn, Pennsylvania, is a problem for everyone in town except seventeen-year-old Leighton Barnes. For Leighton, it's no stranger than her house, which inexplicably repairs itself

every time her father loses his temper and breaks things. Leighton doesn't have time for the crows—it's her senior year, and acceptance to her dream college is finally within reach. But grabbing that lifeline means abandoning her sisters, a choice she's not ready to face. With her father's rage worsening and the town in chaos over the crows, Leighton allows herself a chance at happiness with Liam, her charming classmate, even though falling in love feels like a revolutionary act. Balancing school, dating, and survival under the shadow of sixty thousand feathered wings starts to feel almost comfortable, but Leighton knows that this fragile equilibrium can only last so long before it shatters.

the people could fly: Black Folktales Julius Lester, 1970 Twelve tales of African and Afro-American origin include *How God Made the Butterflies*, *The Girl With the Large Eyes*, *Stagolee*, and *People Who Could Fly*.

the people could fly: Her Stories Virginia Hamilton, 1995 Nineteen stories focus on the magical lore and wondrous imaginings of African American women.

the people could fly: *As Fast as Words Could Fly* Pamela Tuck, 2018-08-20 The story of Mason Steele, an African American boy in 1960s Greenville, North Carolina, who relies on his inner strength and his typing skills to break racial barriers after he begins attending a whites-only high school.

the people could fly: *The Women Could Fly* Megan Giddings, 2022-08-09 Reminiscent of the works of Margaret Atwood, Shirley Jackson, and Octavia Butler, a biting social commentary from the acclaimed author of *Lakewood* that speaks to our times—a piercing dystopian novel about the unbreakable bond between a young woman and her mysterious mother, set in a world in which witches are real and single women are closely monitored. Josephine Thomas has heard every conceivable theory about her mother's disappearance. That she was kidnapped. Murdered. That she took on a new identity to start a new family. That she was a witch. This is the most worrying charge because in a world where witches are real, peculiar behavior raises suspicions and a woman—especially a Black woman—can find herself on trial for witchcraft. But fourteen years have passed since her mother's disappearance, and now Jo is finally ready to let go of the past. Yet her future is in doubt. The State mandates that all women marry by the age of 30—or enroll in a registry that allows them to be monitored, effectively forfeiting their autonomy. At 28, Jo is ambivalent about marriage. With her ability to control her life on the line, she feels as if she has never understood her mother more. When she's offered the opportunity to honor one last request from her mother's will, Jo leaves her regular life to feel connected to her one last time. In this powerful and timely novel, Megan Giddings explores the limits women face—and the powers they have to transgress and transcend them.

the people could fly: *The Boy Who Could Fly* Robert Newman, 2014-12-30 Joey has always been a special kid, but his brother, Mark, is worried that the people in their new town won't understand his odd behavior. Mark has always known that his brother, Joey, was special. The problem is, Joey has always been a little too special for most people to understand. When the brothers move to rural upstate New York to live with their aunt and uncle, Mark is worried that Joey will have a hard time fitting into their new town—especially since Joey has a habit of speaking his thoughts inside people's minds instead of out loud. Mark believes that Joey can do anything he sets his mind to—if he wanted to, he could probably even fly. But when a local politician dares Joey to prove his talents, Mark worries that by accepting the challenge, Joey is keeping himself from ever being able to live a regular life again. And in a town like Westfield, not being normal can be dangerous.

the people could fly: Someday We Will Fly Rachel DeWoskin, 2019-01-22 From the author of *Blind*, a heart-wrenching coming-of-age story set during World War II in Shanghai, one of the only places Jews without visas could find refuge. Warsaw, Poland. The year is 1940 and Lillia is fifteen when her mother, Alenka, disappears and her father flees with Lillia and her younger sister, Naomi, to Shanghai, one of the few places that will accept Jews without visas. There they struggle to make a life; they have no money, there is little work, no decent place to live, a culture that doesn't

understand them. And always the worry about Alenka. How will she find them? Is she still alive? Meanwhile Lillia is growing up, trying to care for Naomi, whose development is frighteningly slow, in part from malnourishment. Lillia finds an outlet for her artistic talent by making puppets, remembering the happy days in Warsaw when her family was circus performers. She attends school sporadically, makes friends with Wei, a Chinese boy, and finds work as a performer at a gentlemen's club without her father's knowledge. But meanwhile the conflict grows more intense as the Americans declare war and the Japanese force the Americans in Shanghai into camps. More bombing, more death. Can they survive, caught in the crossfire?

the people could fly: The Girl Who Was Convinced Beyond All Reason That She Could Fly Sybil Lamb, 2020-11-10 In a rusted unnamed city full of five-dollar hotels and flea markets, a young homeless girl named Eggs is trying to make her way in the world. She's shy and bold at the same time, and wary of strangers, but she is convinced beyond all reason that she can fly. And fly she does, from rooftop to rooftop, from chimneys to phone wires; she scurries up the sides of buildings, and sneaks into secret lairs. Eggs is a loner but she makes two friends: Grack, who sells 100 different kinds of hot dogs from his bicycle cart, and Splendid Wren, a punk rocker whose open window Eggs came crashing through one night. Both Grack and Splendid Wren try their best to protect her, but Eggs meets her match when on a cold night she swoops onto a rooftop and steals a warm jacket belonging to Robin, a neighbourhood baddie with anger management issues. Can Eggs elude his wrathful revenge? Beguiling and otherworldly, *The Girl Who Was Convinced Beyond All Reason That She Could Fly* is a fevered dream about a young girl's flights of fancy in order to survive, and to thrive. Ages 14 and up. This publication meets the EPUB Accessibility requirements and it also meets the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG-AA). It is screen-reader friendly and is accessible to persons with disabilities. A book with many images, which is defined with accessible structural markup. This book contains various accessibility features such as alternative text for images, table of contents, page-list, landmark, reading order and semantic structure.

the people could fly: Many Thousand Gone Virginia Hamilton, 1995-12-12 For use in schools and libraries only. Recounts the journey of slaves to freedom via the Underground Railroad, an extended group of people who helped fugitive slaves in many ways.

the people could fly: Pigs Might Fly Nick Abadzis, 2017-07-11 The daughter of a renowned inventor, Lily Leanchops' obsession with building a functional aircraft is put to the test when the Warthogs, piloting flying machines protected by dark magic, set out to claim Pigdom Plains for their own.

the people could fly: The Footballer Who Could Fly Duncan Hamilton, 2012 Without football, we were strangers under the same roof. With it, we were father and son'. Inspired by his father's devotion to Newcastle United and the heroes of yesteryear, such as Jackie Milburn, Bobby Charlton and Duncan Edwards, Hamilton recreates a distant, bygone age and charts the progress of post-war British football to the present day. From the hardscrabble 1940s and the 'never-had-it-so-good' 50s, right through to how the dowdy-looking First Division of the 80s transformed itself into the slick, money-driven Premiership that is so familiar to us today. Hamilton writes about the some of its most sublime players, from George Best to Lionel Messi, and some of its most respected managers, from Bill Shankly to Sir Alex Ferguson. But at the heart of *The Footballer Who Could Fly*, is Hamilton's exploration of the bond between father and son through the Beautiful Game, and how football became the only live connection between two people who, apart from their love of it, were wholly different from one another. From the two-time winner of the William Hill Sports Book of the Year comes a personal and affecting story that beautifully captures one of the most important three-way relationships in a man's life. Father and son and football.--Amazon.com.

the people could fly: If I Could Fly Judith Ortiz Cofer, 2011-05-24 *If I Could Fly* is a standalone novel based on characters introduced in Judith Ortiz Cofer's bestselling short story collection, *An Island Like You: Stories of the Barrio*, which won the inaugural Pura Belpré Award. Fifteen-year-old Doris is used to taking care of herself. Her musician parents have always spent more time singing in nightclubs than watching after her. But when her ailing mother goes home to

Puerto Rico to get well and pursue a singing career there, and her father finds a new girlfriend, Doris is more alone than she's ever been. Disconnected from her family and her best friends, who are intertwined in terrifying relationships with a violent classmate, Doris finds refuge in taking care of homing pigeons on her apartment building's roof. As Doris tries to make sense of it all, she learns that, just like the pigeons, she might have to fly far distances before she finds out where she belongs.

the people could fly: The Invention of Wings Sue Monk Kidd, 2014-01-07 The newest Oprah's Book Club 2.0 selection: this special eBook edition of *The Invention of Wings* by Sue Monk Kidd features exclusive content, including Oprah's personal notes highlighted within the text, and a reading group guide. Writing at the height of her narrative and imaginative gifts, Sue Monk Kidd presents a masterpiece of hope, daring, the quest for freedom, and the desire to have a voice in the world. Hetty "Handful" Grimke, an urban slave in early nineteenth century Charleston, yearns for life beyond the suffocating walls that enclose her within the wealthy Grimke household. The Grimke's daughter, Sarah, has known from an early age she is meant to do something large in the world, but she is hemmed in by the limits imposed on women. Kidd's sweeping novel is set in motion on Sarah's eleventh birthday, when she is given ownership of ten year old Handful, who is to be her handmaid. We follow their remarkable journeys over the next thirty five years, as both strive for a life of their own, dramatically shaping each other's destinies and forming a complex relationship marked by guilt, defiance, estrangement and the uneasy ways of love. As the stories build to a riveting climax, Handful will endure loss and sorrow, finding courage and a sense of self in the process. Sarah will experience crushed hopes, betrayal, unrequited love, and ostracism before leaving Charleston to find her place alongside her fearless younger sister, Angelina, as one of the early pioneers in the abolition and women's rights movements. Inspired by the historical figure of Sarah Grimke, Kidd goes beyond the record to flesh out the rich interior lives of all of her characters, both real and invented, including Handful's cunning mother, Charlotte, who courts danger in her search for something better. This exquisitely written novel is a triumph of storytelling that looks with unswerving eyes at a devastating wound in American history, through women whose struggles for liberation, empowerment, and expression will leave no reader unmoved. Please note there is another digital edition available without Oprah's notes. Go to Oprah.com/bookclub for more OBC 2.0 content

the people could fly: If Fried Chicken Could Fly Paige Shelton, 2012-01-03 At Gram's Country Cooking School, Betts and Gram are helping students prepare the perfect dishes for the Southern Missouri Show-Down, the cook-off that draws the first of the summer visitors. Everything is going smoothly until they discover the body of local theater owner Everett Morningside in the school's supply closet, and Everett's widow points an accusatory finger at Gram. Now, Betts has to dig deep into Broken Rope's history to find the modern-day killer-before the last piece of chicken is served...

the people could fly: The Year We Learned to Fly Jacqueline Woodson, 2022-01-04 Jacqueline Woodson and Rafael López's highly anticipated companion to their #1 New York Times bestseller *The Day You Begin* illuminates the power in each of us to face challenges with confidence. On a dreary, stuck-inside kind of day, a brother and sister heed their grandmother's advice: "Use those beautiful and brilliant minds of yours. Lift your arms, close your eyes, take a deep breath, and believe in a thing. Somebody somewhere at some point was just as bored you are now." And before they know it, their imaginations lift them up and out of their boredom. Then, on a day full of quarrels, it's time for a trip outside their minds again, and they are able to leave their anger behind. This precious skill, their grandmother tells them, harkens back to the days long before they were born, when their ancestors showed the world the strength and resilience of their beautiful and brilliant minds. Jacqueline Woodson's lyrical text and Rafael Lopez's dazzling art celebrate the extraordinary ability to lift ourselves up and imagine a better world.

the people could fly: The Annotated African American Folktales (The Annotated Books) Henry Louis Gates Jr., Maria Tatar, 2017-11-14 Winner • NAACP Image Award for Outstanding Literary Work (Fiction) Winner • Anne Izard Storytellers' Choice Award Holiday Gift Guide Selection •

Indiewire, San Francisco Chronicle, and Minneapolis Star-Tribune These nearly 150 African American folktales animate our past and reclaim a lost cultural legacy to redefine American literature. Drawing from the great folklorists of the past while expanding African American lore with dozens of tales rarely seen before, *The Annotated African American Folktales* revolutionizes the canon like no other volume. Following in the tradition of such classics as Arthur Huff Fauset's "Negro Folk Tales from the South" (1927), Zora Neale Hurston's *Mules and Men* (1935), and Virginia Hamilton's *The People Could Fly* (1985), acclaimed scholars Henry Louis Gates Jr. and Maria Tatar assemble a groundbreaking collection of folktales, myths, and legends that revitalizes a vibrant African American past to produce the most comprehensive and ambitious collection of African American folktales ever published in American literary history. Arguing for the value of these deceptively simple stories as part of a sophisticated, complex, and heterogeneous cultural heritage, Gates and Tatar show how these remarkable stories deserve a place alongside the classic works of African American literature, and American literature more broadly. Opening with two introductory essays and twenty seminal African tales as historical background, Gates and Tatar present nearly 150 African American stories, among them familiar Brer Rabbit classics, but also stories like "The Talking Skull" and "Witches Who Ride," as well as out-of-print tales from the 1890s' Southern Workman. Beginning with the figure of Anansi, the African trickster, master of improvisation—a spider who plots and weaves in scandalous ways—*The Annotated African American Folktales* then goes on to draw Caribbean and Creole tales into the orbit of the folkloric canon. It retrieves stories not seen since the Harlem Renaissance and brings back archival tales of "Negro folklore" that Booker T. Washington proclaimed had emanated from a "grapevine" that existed even before the American Revolution, stories brought over by slaves who had survived the Middle Passage. Furthermore, Gates and Tatar's volume not only defines a new canon but reveals how these folktales were hijacked and misappropriated in previous incarnations, egregiously by Joel Chandler Harris, a Southern newspaperman, as well as by Walt Disney, who cannibalized and capitalized on Harris's volumes by creating cartoon characters drawn from this African American lore. Presenting these tales with illuminating annotations and hundreds of revelatory illustrations, *The Annotated African American Folktales* reminds us that stories not only move, entertain, and instruct but, more fundamentally, inspire and keep hope alive. *The Annotated African American Folktales* includes: Introductory essays, nearly 150 African American stories, and 20 seminal African tales as historical background The familiar Brer Rabbit classics, as well as news-making vernacular tales from the 1890s' Southern Workman An entire section of Caribbean and Latin American folktales that finally become incorporated into the canon Approximately 200 full-color, museum-quality images

the people could fly: Bruh Rabbit and the Tar Baby Girl Virginia Hamilton, 2003 In this retelling, using Gullah speech, of a familiar story the wily Brer Rabbit outwits Brer Fox who has set out to trap him.

the people could fly: The Hen Who Dreamed She Could Fly Sun-mi Hwang, 2013-11-26 The Korean Charlotte's Web More than 2 million copies sold This is the story of a hen named Sprout. No longer content to lay eggs on command, only to have them carted off to the market, she glimpses her future every morning through the barn doors, where the other animals roam free, and comes up with a plan to escape into the wild—and to hatch an egg of her own. An anthem for freedom, individuality, and motherhood featuring a plucky, spirited heroine who rebels against the tradition-bound world of the barnyard, *The Hen Who Dreamed She Could Fly* is a novel of universal resonance that also opens a window on Korea, where it has captivated millions of readers. And with its array of animal characters—the hen, the duck, the rooster, the dog, the weasel—it calls to mind such classics in English as *Animal Farm* and *Charlotte's Web*. Featuring specially-commissioned illustrations, this first English-language edition of Sun-mi Hwang's fable for our times beautifully captures the journey of an unforgettable character in world literature.

the people could fly: Fly High! Louise Borden, Mary Kay Kroeger, 2004 This book discusses the life of the determined African American woman who went all the way to France in order to earn her pilot's license in 1921.

the people could fly: This Is How We Fly Anna Meriano, 2020-12-15 *Truly enchanting.--Kirkus Reviews (starred review) A loose retelling of Cinderella, about a high-school graduate who--after getting grounded for the whole summer--joins a local Quidditch league and finds her footing, perfect for fans of Dumplin', Fangirl, and everyone who's read and adored Harry Potter. 17-year-old vegan feminist Ellen Lopez-Rourke has one muggy Houston summer left before college. She plans to spend every last moment with her two best friends before they go off to the opposite ends of Texas for school. But when Ellen is grounded for the entire summer by her (sometimes) evil stepmother, all her plans are thrown out the window. Determined to do something with her time, Ellen (with the help of BFF Melissa) convinces her parents to let her join the local muggle Quidditch team. An all-gender, full-contact game, Quidditch isn't quite what Ellen expects. There's no flying, no magic, just a bunch of scrappy players holding PVC pipe between their legs and throwing dodgeballs. Suddenly Ellen is thrown into the very different world of sports: her life is all practices, training, and running with a group of Harry Potter fans. Even as Melissa pulls away to pursue new relationships and their other BFF Xiumiao seems more interested in moving on from high school (and from Ellen), Ellen is steadily finding a place among her teammates. Maybe Quidditch is where she belongs. But with her home life and friend troubles quickly spinning out of control--Ellen must fight for the future that she wants, now she's playing for keeps. Filled with heart and humor, Anna Meriano's YA debut is perfect for fans of Dumplin' and Hot Dog Girl. Praise for This is How We Fly: *Readers will find much to appreciate about Ellen's fresh, relatable journey to define herself on her own terms. --Publishers Weekly (starred review) A timely coming-of-age story with a unique Quidditch twist.--School Library Journal Anna Meriano's This is How We Fly is a delightful treat of a book that will make you want to grab your broom and go! A story of a young woman at a crossroads summer, this tale tackles the growing pains of late adolescence - family struggles, changing friendships, new crushes - with so much grace and heart. See you on the pitch! - Jennifer Mathieu, author of The Liars of Mariposa Island and Moxie This is How We Fly breathes new life into a sport and retelling we think we know and lets them bake beneath the Texas sun. Anna Meriano has written one of the most authentic teen voice I've read in years.--Nina Moreno, author of Don't Date Rosa Santos This is How We Fly is, at its heart, about fierce friendships, flirty beaters, and firsts. Anna Meriano takes the magical fairytale of Cinderella and gives it a bookish twist. Ellen is an existential crisis on a broom and I love her. - Ashley Poston, National Bestselling Author of Geekerella Meriano adeptly weaves questions of identity, friendship and family into this delightful summer tale about the thrilling world of club Quidditch. At times both hilarious and heartbreaking, this incredible story is sure to leave you flying high.--Jennifer Dugan, author of Hot Dog Girl and Verona Comics

the people could fly: Vesper Flights Helen Macdonald, 2020-08-25 The New York Times--bestselling author of H is for Hawk explores the human relationship to the natural world in this "dazzling" essay collection (Wall Street Journal). In Vesper Flights, Helen Macdonald brings together a collection of her best loved essays, along with new pieces on topics ranging from nostalgia for a vanishing countryside to the tribulations of farming ostriches to her own private vespers while trying to fall asleep. Meditating on notions of captivity and freedom, immigration and flight, Helen invites us into her most intimate experiences: observing the massive migration of songbirds from the top of the Empire State Building, watching tens of thousands of cranes in Hungary, seeking the last golden orioles in Suffolk's poplar forests. She writes with heart-tugging clarity about wild boar, swifts, mushroom hunting, migraines, the strangeness of birds' nests, and the unexpected guidance and comfort we find when watching wildlife.

the people could fly: Fly Already Etgar Keret, 2019-09-03 From a genius (New York Times) storyteller: a new, subversive, hilarious, heart-breaking collection. There is sweetheartedness and wisdom and eloquence and transcendence in his stories because these virtues exist in abundance in Etgar himself... I am very happy that Etgar and his work are in the world, making things better. --George Saunders There's no one like Etgar Keret. His stories take place at the crossroads of the fantastical, searing, and hilarious. His characters grapple with parenthood and family, war and

games, marijuana and cake, memory and love. These stories never go to the expected place, but always surprise, entertain, and move... In *Arctic Lizard*, a young boy narrates a post-apocalyptic version of the world where a youth army wages an unending war, rewarded by collecting prizes. A father tries to shield his son from the inevitable in *Fly Already*. In *One Gram Short*, a guy just wants to get a joint to impress a girl and ends up down a rabbit hole of chaos and heartache. And in the masterpiece *Pineapple Crush*, two unlikely people connect through an evening smoke down by the beach, only to have one of them imagine a much deeper relationship. The thread that weaves these pieces together is our inability to communicate, to see so little of the world around us and to understand each other even less. Yet somehow, in these pages, through Etgar's deep love for humanity and our hapless existence, a bright light shines through and our universal connection to each other sparks alive.

the people could fly: *Lords of the Fly* Monte Burke, 2020-09-01 From the bestselling author of *Saban*, *4th and Goal*, and *Sowbelly* comes the thrilling, untold story of the quest for the world record tarpon on a fly rod—a tale that reveals as much about Man as it does about the fish. In the late 1970s and early 1980s, something unique happened in the quiet little town on the west coast of Florida known as Homosassa. The best fly anglers in the world—Lefty Kreh, Stu Apte, Ted Williams, Tom Evans, Billy Pate and others—all gathered together to chase the same Holy Grail: The world record for the world's most glamorous and sought-after fly rod species, the tarpon. The anglers would meet each morning for breakfast. They would compete out on the water during the day, eat dinner together at night, socialize and party. Some harder than others. The world record fell nearly every year. But records weren't the only things that were broken. Hooks, lines, rods, reels, hearts and marriages didn't survive, either. The egos involved made the atmosphere electric. The difficulty of the quest made it legitimate. The drugs and romantic entanglements that were swept in with the tide would finally make it all veer out of control. It was a confluence of people and place that had never happened before in the world of fishing and will never happen again. It was a collision of the top anglers and the top species of fish which would lead to smashed lives for nearly all involved, man and fish alike. In *Lords of the Fly*, Burke, an obsessed tarpon fly angler himself, delves into this incredible moment. He examines the growing popularity of the tarpon, an amazing fish has been around for 50 million years, can live to 80 years old and can grow to 300 pounds in weight. It is a massive, leaping, bullet train of a fish. When hooked in shallow water, it produces "immediate unreality," as the late poet and tarpon obsessive, Richard Brautigan, once described it. Burke also chronicles the heartbreaking destruction that exists as a result—brought on by greed, environmental degradation and the shenanigans of a notorious Miami gangster—and how all of it has shaped our contemporary fishery. Filled with larger-than-life characters and vivid prose, *Lords of the Fly* is not only a must read for anglers of all stripes, but also for those interested in the desperate yearning of the human condition.

the people could fly: *The Princess and the Warrior* Duncan Tonatiuh, 2016-09-20 In the picture book *Princess and the Warrior: A Tale of Two Volcanoes*, award-winning author and illustrator Duncan Tonatiuh brings a cherished Mexican legend to life. A Pura Belpré Illustrator Honor Book ALA/ALSC Notable Children's Book! "A palette of earthy, evocative colors . . . A genuine triumph." —Kirkus Reviews (Starred Review) "Use this Aztec legend to inspire readers while teaching a bit about dramatic irony." —School Library Journal Izta was the most beautiful princess in the land, and suitors traveled from far and wide to woo her. Even though she was the daughter of the emperor, Izta had no desire to marry a man of wealth and power. Instead, she fell in love with Popoca, a brave warrior who fought in her father's army—and a man who did not offer her riches but a promise to stay by her side forever. The emperor did not want his daughter to marry a mere warrior, but he recognized Popoca's bravery. He offered Popoca a deal: If the warrior could defeat their enemy, Jaguar Claw, then the emperor would permit Popoca and Izta to wed. But Jaguar Claw had a plan to thwart the warrior. Would all be lost? Today two majestic volcanoes—Popocatepetl and Iztaccíhuatl—stand overlooking Mexico City. They have been admired and revered for countless generations and have formed the basis of many origin and creation myths. The integration of

Nahuatl words (defined with a pronunciation guide in the glossary) into the narrative provides a rich opportunity to introduce and explore another facet of ancient Aztec culture. Take your child on an adventure back in time to a land of color and beauty.

the people could fly: *Anthony Burns* Virginia Hamilton, 2011-02-15 The “unforgettable” novel from the Newbery Medal-winning author tells the true story of a runaway slave whose capture and trial set off abolitionist riots (Kirkus Reviews). Anthony Burns is a runaway slave who has just started to build a life for himself in Boston. Then his former owner comes to town to collect him. Anthony won’t go willingly, though, and people across the city step forward to make sure he’s not taken. Based on the true story of a man who stood up against the Fugitive Slave Law, Hamilton’s gripping account follows the battle in the streets and in the courts to keep Burns a citizen of Boston—a battle that is the prelude to the nation’s bloody Civil War.

the people could fly: *Amazing Women of the Civil War* Webb Garrison, 1999-09-12 The Civil War is most often described as one in which brother fought against brother. But the most devastating war fought on American soil was also one in which women demonstrated heroic deeds, selfless acts, and courage beyond measure. Women mobilized soup kitchens and relief societies. Women cared for wounded soldiers. Women were effective spies. And it is estimated that 300 women fought on the battlefields, usually disguised as men. The most fascinating Civil War women include: Harriet Tubman, a former slave, who led hundreds of fellow slaves to freedom on the Underground Railroad Four hundred women who were seized in Roswell, Georgia, deported to Indiana, and vanished without a trace Belle Boyd, the Siren of the Shenandoah, who at the age of seventeen killed a Union soldier Crazy Elizabeth Van Lew, who deliberately fostered the impression that she was eccentric so that she could be an effective spy for the North The poor fellow sprang from my hands and fell back quivering in the agonies of death. A bullet had passed between my body and the right arm which supported him, cutting through my sleeve and passing through his chest from shoulder to shoulder. ?Clara Barton, founder of the American Red Cross We were all amused and disgusted at the sight of a thing that nothing but the debased and depraved Yankee nation could produce. [A woman] was dressed in the full uniform of a Federal surgeon. She was not good looking, and of course had tongue enough for a regiment of men. ?Captain Benedict J. Semmes, describing Mary Walker, M.D.

the people could fly: *In the Beginning* Virginia Hamilton, 1988 An illustrated collection of twenty-five myths from various parts of the world explaining the creation of the world.

the people could fly: *The Boy Who Knew Everything* Victoria Forester, 2015-10-27 There is a prophecy. It speaks of a girl who can fly and a boy who knows everything. The prophecy says that they have the power to bring about great change The boy is Conrad Harrington III. The girl is Piper McCloud. They need their talents now, more than ever, if they are to save the world-and themselves. This title has Common Core connections.

the people could fly: *Vital Signs* Robin Cook, 1992-02-01 The bestselling “master of the medical thriller” (The New York Times) tells a harrowing tale of the lengths one doctor will go to in order to conceive—and the conspiracy that may be at the root of her struggles. Dr. Marissa Blumenthal’s dream of becoming pregnant has turned into an obsession. A successful pediatrician, she will try any scientific method available to conceive—until the horrible secrets of an urban clinic erupt in a nightmare of staggering proportions. As more women reveal their similar struggles and as suspicious deaths begin to look like murder, it’s up to Marissa to uncover the truth behind her plight, no matter how dangerous a mission that might be. “Controversial... believable and chilling.”—Houston Chronicle

the people could fly: *Far North* Will Hobbs, 2009-10-13 From the window of the small floatplane, fifteen-year-old Gabe Rogers is getting his first look at Canada's magnificent Northwest Territories with Raymond Providence, his roommate from boarding school. Below is the spectacular Nahanni River -- wall-to-wall whitewater racing between sheer cliffs and plunging over Virginia Falls. The pilot sets the plane down on the lake-like surface of the upper river for a closer look at the thundering falls. Suddenly the engine quits. The only sound is a dull roar downstream, as the Cessna

drifts helplessly toward the falls . . . With the brutal subarctic winter fast approaching, Gabe and Raymond soon find themselves stranded in Deadmen Valley. Trapped in a frozen world of moose, wolves, and bears, two boys from vastly different cultures come to depend on each other for their very survival.

the people could fly: I Thought My Soul Would Rise and Fly Joyce Hansen, 2011

Twelve-year-old Patsy keeps a diary of the ripe but confusing time following the end of the Civil War and the granting of freedom to former slaves.

the people could fly: Virginia Hamilton Virginia Hamilton, Arnold Adoff, Kacy Cook, 2010

Twenty-six works by the distinguished children's book author illuminate the creative energy behind her artistry while speaking to a new generation of readers, introducing them to her literary vision and stunning body of writing which include Newbery Medal and National Book Award winners.

the people could fly: The Invention of Wings Sue Monk Kidd, 2014-01-07 The #1 New York Times bestseller of hope, daring, and the quest for freedom taken on by two unforgettable American women, from the celebrated author of *The Secret Life of Bees*. "A remarkable novel that heightened my sense of what it meant to be a woman - slave or free . . . a conversation changer." - Oprah Winfrey, O, *The Oprah Magazine* "Powerful...furtheres our essential understanding of what has happened among us as Americans - and why it still matters." -*The Washington Post* Writing at the height of her narrative and imaginative gifts, Sue Monk Kidd presents a masterpiece of hope, daring, the quest for freedom, and the desire to have a voice in the world—and it is now the newest Oprah's Book Club 2.0 selection. Hetty "Handful" Grimke, an urban slave in early nineteenth century Charleston, yearns for life beyond the suffocating walls that enclose her within the wealthy Grimke household. The Grimke's daughter, Sarah, has known from an early age she is meant to do something large in the world, but she is hemmed in by the limits imposed on women. Kidd's sweeping novel is set in motion on Sarah's eleventh birthday, when she is given ownership of ten year old Handful, who is to be her handmaid. We follow their remarkable journeys over the next thirty five years, as both strive for a life of their own, dramatically shaping each other's destinies and forming a complex relationship marked by guilt, defiance, estrangement and the uneasy ways of love. As the stories build to a riveting climax, Handful will endure loss and sorrow, finding courage and a sense of self in the process. Sarah will experience crushed hopes, betrayal, unrequited love, and ostracism before leaving Charleston to find her place alongside her fearless younger sister, Angelina, as one of the early pioneers in the abolition and women's rights movements. Inspired by the historical figure of Sarah Grimke, Kidd goes beyond the record to flesh out the rich interior lives of all of her characters, both real and invented, including Handful's cunning mother, Charlotte, who courts danger in her search for something better. This exquisitely written novel is a triumph of storytelling that looks with unswerving eyes at a devastating wound in American history, through women whose struggles for liberation, empowerment, and expression will leave no reader unmoved.

the people could fly: The Wall and the Wing Laura Ruby, 2007-05-22 In this hilarious, adventure-filled fantasy set in a city where almost everyone can fly, a girl discovers she has a newfound power: she can become invisible. She soon teams up with a belligerent boy to figure out who and what she is.

the people could fly: Pedro Páramo Juan Rulfo, Josephine Sacabo, Margaret Sayers Peden, 2002-11-01 Beseched by his dying mother to locate his father, Pedro Paramo, whom they fled from years ago, Juan Preciado sets out for Comala. Comala is a town alive with whispers and shadows--a place seemingly populated only by memory and hallucinations. 49 photos.

the people could fly: Fly, Doctor, Fly! Lyndsay Archer, 2021-01-04 PJ is a very curious, imaginative, and creative young boy from the rural countryside of Jamaica. When PJ comes across an injured Doctor Bird, Jamaica's national hummingbird, he wants to figure out a way to help him fly again. What PJ doesn't realize is that his newfound mission leads him to explore what he is truly passionate about, the field of medicine. His exposure to healthcare heroes within his own community and his mother's love give him the motivation he needs to pursue his dreams. This book features a beautiful story with bright and vivid illustrations in addition to wonderful resources to support

children and their families in pursuing the path towards becoming doctors!

the people could fly: Ready to Fly: How Sylvia Townsend Became the Bookmobile Ballerina
Lea Lyon, Alexandria LaFaye, 2020-07-07 Lyrical, inspiring, and affecting text paired with bright, appealing illustrations make Ready to Fly perfect for aspiring ballerinas everywhere who are ready to leap and to spread their wings! Ready to Fly is the true story of Sylvia Townsend, an African American girl who falls in love with ballet after seeing Swan Lake on TV. This nonfiction picture book is an excellent choice to share at home or in the classroom. Although there aren't many ballet schools that will accept a girl like Sylvia in the 1950s, her local bookmobile provides another possibility. A librarian helps Sylvia find a book about ballet and the determined seven-year-old, with the help of her new books, starts teaching herself the basics of classical ballet. Soon Sylvia learns how to fly—how to dance—and how to dare to dream. Includes a foreword from Sylvia Townsend, a brief history of the bookmobile, an author's note, and a further reading list.

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