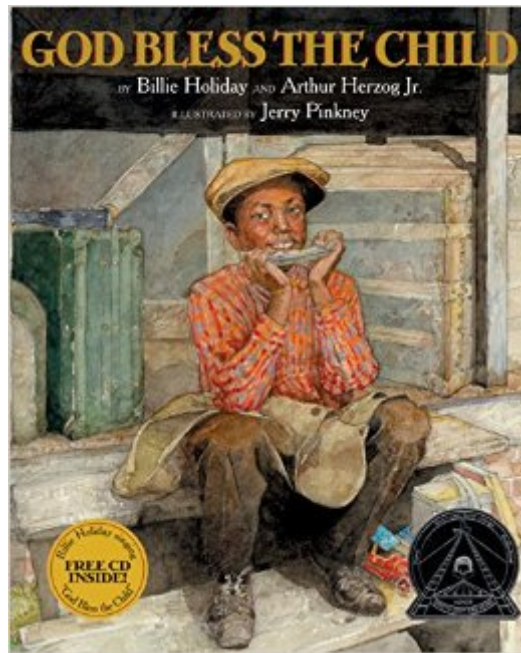


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# God Bless The Child (Coretta Scott King Illustrator Honor Books)



## Synopsis

"Mama may have, Papa may have, But God bless the child That's got his own! That's got his own." The song "God Bless the Child" was first performed by legendary jazz vocalist Billie Holiday in 1939 and remains one of her enduring masterpieces. In this picture book interpretation, renowned illustrator Jerry Pinkney has created images of a family moving from the rural South to the urban North during the Great Migration that reached its peak in the 1930s. The song's message of self-reliance still speaks to us today but resonates even stronger in its historical context. This extraordinary book stands as a tribute to all those who dared so much to get their own.

## Book Information

Series: Coretta Scott King Illustrator Honor Books

Hardcover: 32 pages

Publisher: Amistad; Book and CD-ROM edition (December 23, 2003)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0060287977

ISBN-13: 978-0060287979

Product Dimensions: 8.8 x 0.2 x 11 inches

Shipping Weight: 14.4 ounces

Average Customer Review: 4.1 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (9 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #840,818 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #29 in [Books > Children's Books > Arts, Music & Photography > Music > Jazz](#) #516 in [Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > History > United States > 1900s](#) #871 in [Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Historical Fiction > United States > 1900s](#)

Age Range: 4 - 8 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 3

## Customer Reviews

There are plenty of historical fiction picture books that take place during the Dust Bowl. And plenty that talk about segregation and sharecroppers in the 1930s. But what there aren't a lot of, at this time, are children's books about The Great Migration that began in the early 1900s and continued up until the 1950s. Few adults even know about this momentous turn in our nation's history, and fewer children still. And while I'm still sitting and waiting for the quintessential Great Migration 5th grade text (preferably written by Russell Freedman, if at all possible), I'm pleased to announce that at long last we finally have a picture book that displays this most important of historical turns. Artist

Jerry Pinkney has taken Billie Holiday's second most famous song (I half wonder if a "Strange Fruit" picture book is in the works) and given it a story. Now, the tale told here is not as cut and dried as some might like. But true kudos to Mr. Pinkney for even thinking up such a fine way to tell of a historical moment that deserves greater attention in our children's historical textbooks. The song "God Bless the Child" is accompanied by the visual tale of a family of black sharecroppers living in the deep south. Their work, as we can see, is hard and their lives worth more than what they get in such a hostile environment. With the promise of work in the big city, the family packs their belongings onto the roof of their car and take off. On one two-page spread (with no words) we see their abandoned home with the odds and ends of their former life left behind. The next two-page spread (also without words) shows the car driving beneath an awe-inspiring scene of true gritty industrialism. An elevated train winds its way over the busy streets below.

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