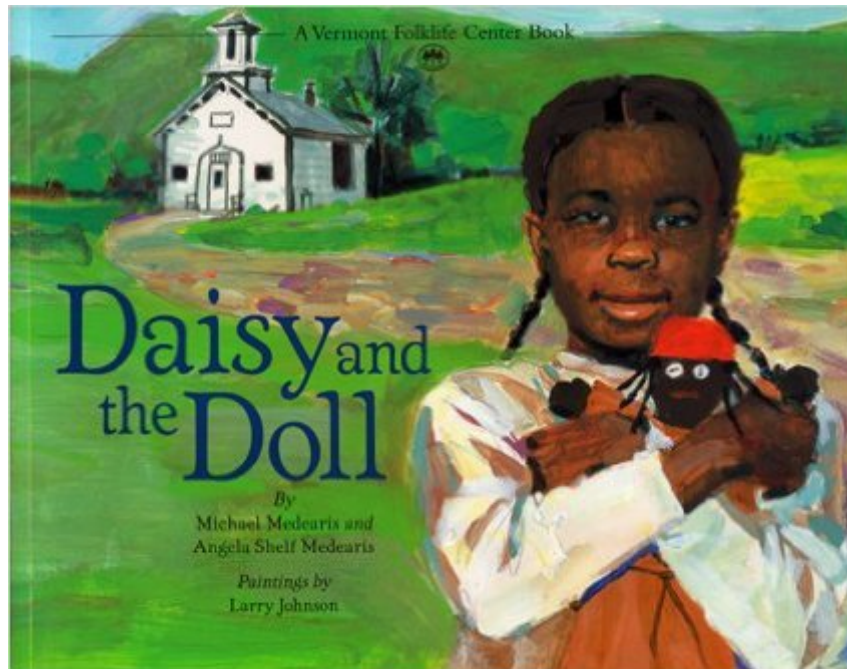


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# Daisy And The Doll (A Vermont Folklife Center Book)



## Synopsis

Boldness and a gift for improvising verse enable eight-year-old African American Daisy Turner to triumph over an incident of discrimination in her nineteenth century rural Vermont school. Told in Daisy's voice, the book's themes of identity and self-affirmation offer a powerful lesson to today's youngsters who face similar situations of prejudice and stereotyping in twenty-first century classrooms. Suggestions on the concluding page provide creative ways for young readers to develop their own storytelling style in verse. Ages 6-10.

## Book Information

Paperback: 32 pages

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Language: English

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Product Dimensions: 10.1 x 0.2 x 8.1 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars See all reviews (7 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #1,575,738 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #116 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > Multiculturalism #1489 in Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Historical Fiction > United States > 1800s #1803 in Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Multicultural Stories > African-American

Age Range: 4 - 8 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 3

## Customer Reviews

Eight-year-old Daisy is the only Black pupil in her class in rural Vermont. When the well-meaning teacher hands out a black doll with a pre-written poem to memorize and recite, Daisy suddenly becomes conscious that her skin color is different from her other classmates. Anger and resentment boil up inside, as she is obliged to go last at the end of school year's Recitation Night. Ashamed also of her shabby red dress Daisy blurts out her true feelings about racial prejudice in poem of inspired by the outpouring of her heart--shocking her father, all the adults and the judges. This story of her quiet defiance should prove a real conversation starter about racism in classrooms. (Where such topics are allowed or encouraged in your school district.)

Daisy was excited about the end of the school year show...until she saw the doll and poem she was given to present. After running home and crying to her father, she began to think about the beauty in the world...about her beauty. Once she got on stage, she got cold feet and had to make a choice about what to say. The paintings are fascinating and dramatically help the story unfold. Absolutely magnificent. 5 stars

Jessie Daisy Turner, an eight year old child in the late 1800s, lives with her parents and twelve siblings on a beautiful Vermont farm surrounded by daisies. Her father had settled in Vermont after he escaped from slavery in Virginia and joined the Union Army. Daisy is one of the only children of color in her classroom, and she is both embarrassed and angry when the teacher, in assigning poems to read and props to hold for a school program, singles Daisy out by giving her a doll with a black face. That moment was the first time someone had treated Daisy differently due to her skin color, and Daisy had trouble making sense of this experience. Ultimately, Daisy is able to use her courage and her talent as a poet to show her teacher, classmates, and the community the importance of speaking out about race and racial equality. Based on a true story, *Daisy and the Doll* provides readers with an important reminder of the hurtful feelings associated with discrimination, even if the person responsible for the treatment may not have intended to be cruel. Although the book focuses on race, the astute reader will also notice an interesting discussion point related to gender, given that the teacher assigned dolls only to the girls.

This is a fantastic book and should be a part of every fourth and fifth grade classroom. The story gives a soul stirring look at life for a minority in the late 1800's in such a way that children can relate to the emotions experienced and actions taken. The story shows how even a child can respond to challenge prejudice and unfair bias in a mature way. It would also be a great introduction to a unit on poetry.

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