



Malcolm Little: The Boy Who Grew Up to Become Malcolm X

By Ilyasah Shabazz

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Bolstered by the love and wisdom of his large, warm family, young Malcolm Little was a natural born leader. But when confronted with intolerance and a series of tragedies, Malcolm's optimism and faith were threatened. He had to learn how to be strong and how to hold on to his individuality. He had to learn self-reliance.

Together with acclaimed illustrator AG Ford, Ilyasah Shabazz gives us a unique glimpse into the childhood of her father, Malcolm X, with a lyrical story that carries a message that resonates still today—that we must all strive to live to our highest potential.

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- Published on: 2014-01-07
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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Gr 4–7—The author of this handsome, inspirational offering is Malcolm X's daughter—an educator, activist, and motivational speaker. Though the book does provide anecdotes from the subject's childhood, it is largely the story of Malcolm's parents, Earl and Louise Little, and how they helped shape their son's character and ideology. His mother was part of the Marcus Garvey movement and was dedicated to the idea of international freedom and equality. His father was an impassioned speaker: "his words had the power to move people, to make them laugh, cry, feel, and think." At the age of four, Malcolm and his family watched their house burn at the hands of people who disagreed with the family's beliefs. While young Malcolm is described as a mischievous prankster from a large, close-knit family, the haunting fire and traumatic events that followed left him "sad, lonely confused...broken." Still, Malcolm's story ends triumphantly in the seventh grade when he, the only African American at school, is elected class president. Ford's oil paintings are accomplished and historically accurate; images of the Littles courting and Earl preaching are painterly and realistic while images of the Little children are more stylized. Dense pages of text make this offering more suitable for upper-elementary or middle-school students.—Barbara Auerbach, New York City Public Schools

Unknown

MALCOLM LITTLE

The Boy Who Grew Up to Become Malcolm X

Author: Ilyasah Shabazz

Illustrator: A.G. Ford

Review Issue Date: November 1, 2013

Online Publish Date: October 20, 2013

Publisher: Atheneum

Pages: 48

Price (Hardcover): \$17.99

Price (e-book): \$12.99

Publication Date: January 7, 2014

ISBN (Hardcover): 978-1-4424-1216-3

ISBN (e-book): 978-1-4424-3304-5

Category: Picture Books

The childhood of the controversial African-American activist was shaped by parental love and white racism.

Writing with the fervor and intensity of a motivational speaker, Shabazz recounts her father's early years, which were filled with the loving support and teachings of his parents as well as the hate and destruction of the Ku Klux Klan. His mother nurtured a love of learning and nature, and his father—a follower of Marcus Garvey—taught him self-pride before being murdered by the KKK. Shabazz concentrates her lengthy text on her father's youth; she writes about his racist English teacher but does not mention his imprisonment, work for Elijah Muhammad's Nation of Islam or conversion to Islam anywhere in the text or in her three-page author's note. With the passion of a preacher, she celebrates love, respect, tolerance and education without restraint, producing an overwritten text laced with an excess of flowery images. In a description of the garden that Malcolm's mother shared with her children, she writes that it "was a testament to true and

unconditional brotherhood from the earth on up to the sky, a daily lesson in acceptance and equality.” Ford’s oil paintings, framed on the page, are lush and filled with detail.

A daughter’s proud but overwrought tribute to her father and his parents. (*Picture book/ biography. 7-10*) (Kirkus)

Shabazz (*Growing Up X*) pays affectionate tribute to her father, Malcolm X, and his parents in this account of the activist’s childhood, which relies on family lore to reimagine Malcolm’s conversations and thoughts. The dense narrative mixes down-to-earth observations (Malcolm “was full of questions, a natural leader, and a fun-loving prankster”) with sometimes protracted metaphors; among the lessons Malcolm learned from his mother’s garden was that it “was an entire world of its own, where even the most sluggish of ladybugs and the fastest scurrying ants were all equally treated like esteemed and welcomed guests at a family Sunday brunch.” What Shabazz relays more precisely is Malcolm’s resolve to succeed and remain true to his parents’ values after he loses his father “to the brute force of racism and the narrow-mindedness of the Ku Klux Klan,” and his mother is deemed “no longer fit to care for her children.” Ford’s (*My Daddy, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.*) oil paintings render joyous and desolate moments with equal skill. Ages 5–10. Author’s agent: Jason Anthony, Lippincott Massie McQuilkin. Illustrator’s agent: Steven Malk, Writers House. (Jan.) (Publishers Weekly)

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Malcolm Little

Written by Ilyasah Shabazz, illustrated by AG Ford

Atheneum, 43 pp., for ages 6 to 10

Before he became the black nationalist leader known as Malcolm X, Malcolm Little was a boy who loved fishing and butterflies. His daughter, Ilyasah Shabazz, aided by AG Ford’s vivid paintings, outlines a childhood marked by love and tragedy. When Malcolm was 4, his home in Omaha was destroyed in a fire, "set by townspeople who disagreed with their family’s beliefs about universal equality." A few years later,

Malcolm lost his father "to the brute force of racism." His mother was taken from her seven children "for reasons that no one dared to explain." Malcolm became the only black student in his junior high school, where, despite a racist white teacher, he was elected class president. His daughter writes, "Malcolm may have lost his family, but he never lost the values for which the Little family stood." (Bob Minzesheimer USA Today)

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Review

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Users Review

From reader reviews:

Roberto Garcia:

What do you with regards to book? It is not important along? Or just adding material when you want something to explain what you problem? How about your time? Or are you busy individual? If you don't have spare time to complete others business, it is give you a sense of feeling bored faster. And you have spare time? What did you do? Everyone has many questions above. The doctor has to answer that question since just their can do that. It said that about guide. Book is familiar on every person. Yes, it is right. Because start from on pre-school until university need this particular Malcolm Little: The Boy Who Grew Up to Become Malcolm X to read.

Christopher Burnham:

Malcolm Little: The Boy Who Grew Up to Become Malcolm X can be one of your beginning books that are good idea. Most of us recommend that straight away because this reserve has good vocabulary that may increase your knowledge in vocabulary, easy to understand, bit entertaining but still delivering the information. The writer giving his/her effort to place every word into pleasure arrangement in writing Malcolm Little: The Boy Who Grew Up to Become Malcolm X nevertheless doesn't forget the main stage, giving the reader the hottest and also based confirm resource data that maybe you can be among it. This great information could drawn you into fresh stage of crucial pondering.

Douglas Elem:

What is your hobby? Have you heard in which question when you got pupils? We believe that that issue was given by teacher on their students. Many kinds of hobby, Everyone has different hobby. Therefore you know that little person just like reading or as studying become their hobby. You need to know that reading is very important as well as book as to be the issue. Book is important thing to provide you knowledge, except your

current teacher or lecturer. You see good news or update regarding something by book. Different categories of books that can you choose to use be your object. One of them are these claims Malcolm Little: The Boy Who Grew Up to Become Malcolm X.

James Voyles:

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