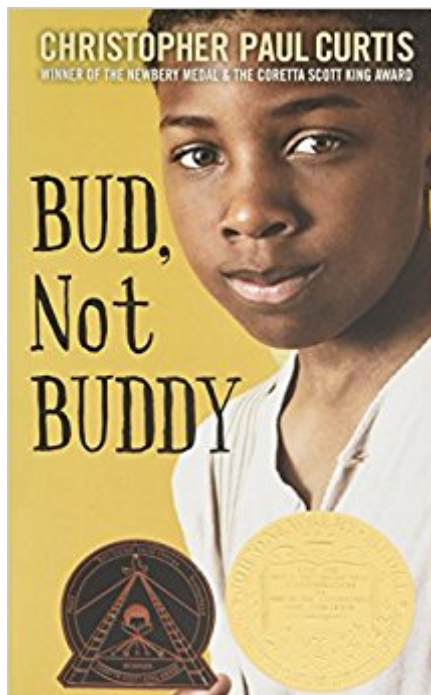


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Bud, Not Buddy



Synopsis

The Newbery Medal and Coretta Scott King Award-winning classic about a boy who decides to hit the road to find his father—•from Christopher Paul Curtis, author of *The Watsons Go to Birmingham—1963*, a Newbery and Coretta Scott King Honoree. It—•s 1936, in Flint Michigan. Times may be hard, and ten-year-old Bud may be a motherless boy on the run, but Bud—•s got a few things going for him: 1. He has his own suitcase full of special things. 2. He—•s the author of Bud Caldwell—•s *Rules and Things for Having a Funner Life and Making a Better Liar Out of Yourself*. 3. His momma never told him who his father was, but she left a clue: flyers advertising Herman E. Calloway and his famous band, the Dusky Devastators of the Depression!!!!!! Bud—•s got an idea that those flyers will lead him to his father. Once he decides to hit the road to find this mystery man, nothing can stop him—•not hunger, not fear, not vampires, not even Herman E. Calloway himself. AN ALA BEST BOOK FOR YOUNG ADULTS AN ALA NOTABLE CHILDREN'S BOOK AN IRA CHILDREN'S BOOK AWARD WINNER NAMED TO 14 STATE AWARD LISTS—•“The book is a gem, of value to all ages, not just the young people to whom it is aimed.—• The Christian Science Monitor —• “Will keep readers engrossed from first page to last.—• Publishers Weekly, Starred —• “Curtis writes with a razor-sharp intelligence that grabs the reader by the heart and never lets go. . . . This highly recommended title [is] at the top of the list of books to be read again and again.—• —• Voice of Youth Advocates, Starred From the Trade Paperback edition.

Book Information

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Books > Literature & Fiction > Historical Fiction > United States > 1900s #5 in [Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Multicultural Stories > African-American](#)
Age Range: 8 - 12 years
Grade Level: 3 - 7

Customer Reviews

"It's funny how ideas are, in a lot of ways they're just like seeds. Both of them start real, real small and then... woop, zoop, sloop... before you can say Jack Robinson, they've gone and grown a lot bigger than you ever thought they could." So figures scrappy 10-year-old philosopher Bud--"not Buddy"--Caldwell, an orphan on the run from abusive foster homes and Hoovervilles in 1930s Michigan. And the idea that's planted itself in his head is that Herman E. Calloway, standup-bass player for the Dusky Devastators of the Depression, is his father. Guided only by a flier for one of Calloway's shows--a small, blue poster that had mysteriously upset his mother shortly before she died--Bud sets off to track down his supposed dad, a man he's never laid eyes on. And, being 10, Bud-not-Buddy gets into all sorts of trouble along the way, barely escaping a monster-infested woodshed, stealing a vampire's car, and even getting tricked into "busting slob with a real live girl." Christopher Paul Curtis, author of *The Watsons Go to Birmingham--1963*, once again exhibits his skill for capturing the language and feel of an era and creates an authentic, touching, often hilarious voice in little Bud. (Ages 8 to 12) --Paul Hughes --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

A 10-year-old boy in Depression-era Michigan sets out to find the man he believes to be his father. "While the harshness of Bud's circumstances are authentically depicted, Curtis imbues them with an aura of hope, and he makes readers laugh even when he sets up the most daunting scenarios," said PW in our Best Books citation. Ages 9-12. Copyright 2002 Cahners Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Following 10 year-old Bud around during the Great Depression as he navigates his way from Flint, Michigan to Grand Rapids, Michigan in search of his father, is an adventure the reader will not soon forget. Bud has never known his father, and his mother died when Bud was six. Having spent time in an orphanage and different foster homes, Bud has developed survival skills that he outlines for the reader in his *Rules and Things to Have a Funner Life and Make a Better Liar Out of Yourself*. In his travels he meets several

people who help him on his journey. Bud's account of each meeting leaves the reader rallying in support of Bud in his quest to find his father. The story takes a somewhat surprising turn when Bud finally reaches Grand Rapids. The story is a great read and a page turner. It is difficult to put down because with each chapter the reader wants to find out what happens to Bud. This book can be enjoyed as an entertaining read for ages 9-12, or it can be incorporated into a 4th or 5th grade Social Studies lesson on the Great Depression. I give the story 4 out of 5 stars only because I personally felt the ending left the reader wanting to know a bit more about the rest of Bud's life in Grand Rapids; there should be an epilogue at the end.

You gotta love "Bud, Not Buddy"...or at least I did. It's a fun-loving tale. Just to follow Bud around in his adventures in Michigan feels real. I'm not saying I could actually relate given the time period but being from Michigan myself gave me something extra to think about. Not to give away spoilers but there's a certain amount of suspense to see if Bud's instincts, which leads him on his quest, pays off in the end. As with so many things in life and in these stories as well, the ending is not quite what we would expect, but no less gratifying. I didn't give it five stars because although I thought it was a good story and I liked it a lot, I didn't think it earth-shattering or even groundbreaking...just a nice story from Mr. Christopher Paul Curtis. He came to the school that I was teaching at, Schulze Elementary School, shortly after he wrote "Bud, Not Buddy" and gave a cool presentation to the kids...nice guy and an inspiration to any aspiring author. John Darryl Winston

James Avery tells this story with heart and soul. He brings each character to life. The language and dialogue that Curtis uses is enhanced by Avery's voice. I have used the CD in my classroom for 4 years and I still look forward to hearing it each year. I liked the book when I read it but hearing it read by Mr. Avery gave it much more depth. My students love listening to this story. Even if you have read the book, listen to it read by James Avery for a big treat.

I read Bud, Not Buddy back in fifth grade and I clearly remember it being one of the first books other than Harry Potter that I read ahead in. I wanted to know what happened next and couldn't be discouraged from doing so. Who needs recess when you have a brilliant short novel about an African American child trying to find his father during the Great Depression. He has many adventures along the way, obviously, and the book has stuck with me ever since then, even though I haven't read it in ten years or so. The one scene in particular that sticks with me (even though it isn't one of the beautiful scenes of the novel) is the one involving Bud locked in the shed and

disturbing a nest of hornets. That one scared me as a kid and must have appealed to my as yet unrealized love for horror. All in all, this is a great book and I am glad that I was forced to read it in school. Most of the books the school forced us to read I enjoyed, but I think that this was my favorite of them.

Perfect read aloud for our fifth grade social studies.

My son's fourth grade class read this this last school year. He loved it so much that we read it together at home, too. Great book.

Great story I read the story with my 9 yr old and 11 yr old. I may have enjoyed it more due to appreciation of reliving the past and playing the images of the story in my head as if it were a movie (hint, hint). The story captured the attention of my daughter eventually as we broke off to read separately. Inspiring to see a boy strong willed in finding his family. Great ending also!!! The story is filled with so much from history , to interest in music arts I can't even explain. Good good book, oh and the Authors final words at the end are more than what we try to instill in our children learn our heritages folklore! They are true heavily rooted stories.Love it.

The characters in this book were great. I loved the whole story. It had the perfect combination of history with family and human relations. The main character is a smart, cute, spunky, and just plain funny 10 year old boy who is trying to find where he truly belongs. I was sorely disappointed when I finished the book because I loved it so much I really wanted it to continue on. I wish there were a sequel. It ended when things where really getting fantastic, but it did have a good enough conclusion that it left problems resolved and the reader with a peaceful feeling in knowing that things were going to be all right for Bud.

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