



# Fishing Day

*Andrea Davis Pinkney , Shane W. Evans (Illustrator)*

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Reenie and her mama love to go fishing down by the river. But the peace of their idyllic fishing spot is often marred by the appearance of Peter Troop and his daddy. Peter is up-jumpy and loud, scaring the fish away. And the Troops harbor some resentment toward them, too. Peter and his daddy are fishing for food; Reenie and Mama fish for fun. The Troops are white; Reenie and Mama are black. And in the Jim Crow South, it is this last difference that is most significant. One day, when the Troops' fishing reel breaks, Reenie overcomes their mutual fear and mistrust to help Peter-an act that holds the promise of friendship and understanding. This is a moving story about two children crossing boundaries of race, class, and gender, and about small acts that make a big difference.

## Fishing Day Details

Date : Published October 13th 2003 by Jump At The Sun

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Author : Andrea Davis Pinkney , Shane W. Evans (Illustrator)

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# **From Reader Review Fishing Day for online ebook**

## **Breana Vining says**

This is a great book that teaches children to treat others how you want to be treated. It mentions the idea of racism and how people acted towards each other, but leaves each child with a positive message.

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## **Linda Lipko says**

Reenie and her mother love to spend time along the banks of the river, slowly, methodically bringing the fish to them. Catching them is fun. In the deep south, Jim Crow laws are enforced and white folk don't mingle or share with black folk.

When Reenie notices that a white man and his son are having a difficult time catching fish, Reenie hopes the young man will set aside his pride and fear and will allow her to show him how to catch food.

Reenie's mother told her that they fish for fun, but sadly, the white boy and father fish because they need the food. When the young man allows Reenie to show him her tricks, racial barriers come down and kindness shines through.

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## **RLL52013\_NicoleHill says**

Reenie and her mother often go fishing together. Usually at the river, they run into Mr. Troop and his son Peter. Reenie and her mother never interact with the Troops because the Troops are a white family, and in the Jim Crow South interacting with a family of another race definitely goes against the societal norm. While fishing, Reenie seems to be having all the luck and Peter is catching nothing. Reenie notices Peter's discouragement and decides to breach the societal norm to help Peter catch a fish.

This book is written by Andrea Davis Pinkney, who is known for writing other Coretta Scott King Honor Books. Pinkney has experience writing both picture books and novels. This book would be great to accompany history lessons about the Jim Crow South.

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## **Dione Basseri says**

So, I'll preface my next statement by saying that I feel really awkward making this observation from a position of White privilege. But this book does a great job showing that often one of the best ways to help overcome prejudice and xenophobia is to reach out and find something in common. That's what this book is really all about. The narrator, Reenie, goes fishing with her mother. They have the ritual down, and seem to just send the fish flying into their hands, but nearby Peter Troop and his father struggle to get even a small catch, and they need to catch something if their family is going to eat. But Reenie can't help Peter, because she is Black and he is White, and interacting with Peter's father would not only hurt the family pride, but perhaps be dangerous.

The book has a nice, peaceful ending, which adults will recognize as not an END, in the sense of all being well in the world and Reenie coming out in victory, but more a beginning, as Peter Troop, independent of his father, learns about people firsthand, rather than from his community.

I'm not sure if this would do well as a book for a unit on racial prejudice, since it does really put a lot of pressure on Reenie to solve things, but I'd say it could be appropriate for the home. Parents, read this on your own before reading to your kids, to make sure you agree with how things are being portrayed.

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### **Marissa Pezzullo says**

This book was about a little girl who went fishing on a certain day with her mother. They end up nearing some white people who are not so kind to the black ladies. The little girl choose to share her knowledge on fishing with the little boy who is not catching anything, To become a good person we need to show children that color is on skin deep.

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### **Kendrick Blackwood says**

Title: Fishing Day

Author: Andrea Davis Pinkney

Illustrator: Shane W. Evans

Genre: Picture book

Summary: Mama and Reenie are regular visitors to the banks of Jim Crow River. With their fishing poles and corn bait, they reel in carp after carp, ignoring as best they can the other visitors, Mr. Troop and his son Peter. The impoverished Troops fish for food rather than fun, but Mr. Troop remains too prideful to interact with Mama. Mama and Reenie are African American. The Troops are white. This difference amounts to a barrier much wider even than Jim Crow River. Though the children exchange glances on occasion, the parents do their best to ignore each other. The tension is more than Peter, who Reenie calls Pigeon, can stand. The boy wiggles and squirms and tosses rocks, first into the water and then at Mama and Reenie. Pigeon seems to regret the attack as soon as it happened, but Mama quietly moves her fishing spot farther away. When Mr. Troop leaves Pigeon alone to fetch something from the truck, Reenie takes him some corn for bait and watches happily as the boy finally catches not one, but two fish. The children have breached a barrier that their parents never would.

Notes: This story is simply but powerfully told. Its prose is written with a countrified slang that adds flavor without being a distraction -- "Mama and me, we sure love fishing." The description of the scene, a cold morning on a muddy river in the country, is subtly and concisely delivered. It is helped by straightforward illustrations in paint -- yellow dots of corn, blue for the water, green for the grass, brown for Reenie's skin and Pigeon's hat.

Classroom Use: The book is a good read that gets at a subtle kind of racism that would be fodder for classroom discussion. Mr. Troop and Mama are honoring a tradition of segregation in all places, even an isolated fishing spot. Mr. Troop can see that Mama is better at fishing than he is, but he refuses to seek her advice or even copy her approach. Mama knows better than to greet Mr. Troop when he arrives. They are doing their best to pass these lessons along to Reenie and Pigeon, but the children are ultimately unwilling to

ignore the obvious.

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### **Ryan Miller says**

Most Jim Crow/civil rights books retain the white characters as the heroes--either working against prejudice or as the actors doing the befriending of those who are oppressed. Pinkney's story of a girl's interactions along a fishing creek clearly delineates oppressive, systemic power structures while giving the main character agency as she interacts with her white counterpart. The story can be read as one of simple kindness, or, more accurately, as one way that a girl acted counter to the norms of the time by empowering herself and others.

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### **Betsy McElhannon says**

1. Fishing Day by Andrea Davis Pinkney
  2. Awards: none for this book
  3. Genre: Diversity-Inclusion
  4. Setting: Riverbank of Jim Crow River during times of "separate but equal"
  5. This book is based during a time in history where prejudice was at large. This could be used in a history lesson when studying Black history and "separate but equal". We could also use this as a lesson to relate to others and how we are all equal.
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### **Katie Nanney says**

I liked this book because it was a historical fiction book about something not often addressed in schools: the Jim Crow south before the 1960's. I liked that the story brought together two children from different backgrounds and taught them both that no matter where you come from, everyone is the same on the inside. I would like to have this book in my classroom to teach about equality.

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### **Anthony says**

A gracious and stunning narrative. Illustrations were plain but adequately served the story.

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### **Kelsea Breedlove says**

Fishing Day is a story told about the separation of blacks and whites. It is told during the time of Jim Crow Laws and this story can be used when the curriculum is to learn about this separation that took place in our country at one point. This story is told about two different families that go down to the river to fish. One family is black, and one is white and they are on opposite sides of the river due to the laws. Rennie the young

girl doesn't understand at the time why it is the way it is, but towards the end you see her and the young boy become friends, and it can show students that it does not matter what you look like on the outside but what matters on the inside that makes you who you are.

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## **Matt says**

Fishing Day by Andrea Davis Pinkrey illustrated by Shane W. Evans

The second of two books about a different culture

Recommended for grades 3rd – 4th

“Fishing Day”, by Andrea Davis Pinkrey and illustrated by Shane W. Evans is a great story of segregation and pride in the south during the 1960's. Reenie, the main character, her mother who are black, go fishing every Saturday and are very successful. The Troop family, who are white, and fish for their food are not very good fishermen. The Troops are resentful to Reenie and her mother for their success at fishing. After fishing for a while, the Troops have to fix a broken pole and the father leaves to fix it. Seeing that Peter, Mr. Troops son, is not catching any fish, Reenie goes to his aid. I gave this book a 5 because it depicts understanding and show that all races can live together with some education and tolerance.

The illustration in this book really helps to tell the story. I found that when Rennie and her mother are alone, the pictures fill up the pages. When the Troop family appears in the story the pictures become framed separately and become smaller. The illustrations seem to be done in very heavy oil based colors that lend to the feelings of the characters.

The text was a seemed to be aimed toward the middle to late elementary grades, probably 3rd to 4th. There was a lot of dialogue between Reenie and her mother that explained the scenes and because of this dialogue I think that this would be a great book to help readers graduate to chapter books. The text also did a great job giving greater explanation to the pictures.

I would use the book, “Fishing Day” to teach a history lesson. A teacher could read the book to put faces on how segregated the south was in the 1960's. This would be great to incorporate into a civil rights lesson.

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## **Anna says**

Stunningly good: this story is completely accessible, and illustrates visually and textually the message it intends to impart without at any point stating it outright. That makes Fishing Day a perfect conversation point with readers. It illustrates life in Jim Crow south without ever teaching anything, in a didactic sense of the word.

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## **Rose says**

JF Pin

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## **Andrew Upchurch says**

This story centers on a young girl living in the Jim Crow South. A book about segregation and pride during the 1960's, Reenie and her mama are both African American who find enjoyment in casual fishing. They often go to the banks of the Jim Crow River. They brought their fishing poles and their corn bait as they would sit and wait for a carp to bite the line. Often times a man named Mr. Troop and his son Peter would tend to come to the river as well. Reenie and her mama loved fishing for fun, but Mr. Troop and Peter fished for food. Peter, or Pigeon as Reenie called him was very squeamish and was constantly throwing rocks and scaring the fish away. After many awkward glances and encounters Reenie brings Peter corn and he catches two fish. Reenie and Peter broke the segregation barrier. Overall this story is simple and motivating. This book could be a great read aloud that hints at racism in an appropriate manor. This could then lead into a classroom discussion.

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## **Lea says**

Excellent historical fiction about the days of the Jim Crow laws.

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## **Kaelyn O'Brien says**

This story centers on a young girl living in the Jim Crow South. A book about segregation and pride during the 1960's, Reenie and her mama are both African American who find enjoyment in casual fishing. They often go to the banks of the Jim Crow River. They brought their fishing poles and their corn bait as they would sit and wait for a carp to bite the line. Often times a man named Mr. Troop and his son Peter would tend to come to the river as well. Reenie and her mama loved fishing for fun, but Mr. Troop and Peter fished for food. Peter, or Pigeon as Reenie called him was very squeamish and was constantly throwing rocks and scaring the fish away. After many awkward glances and encounters Reenie brings Peter corn and he catches two fish. Reenie and Peter broke the segregation barrier. I somewhat liked this book, although I did not connect to it as much because I am not a huge fan of fishing. But, I do think that it hints at racism and shows what racism may have been like in an appropriate manner for students of all ages. It doesn't hide the fact too much and it shows a positive ending, which I am always a fan of.

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## **Kara Duncan says**

Rennie and her mother go to fish, always in the same place. Often they are accompanied by Peter Troop and his father. Now the Troop men do not accompany Rennie and her mother on purpose. Actually, they do not speak because Rennie is black and the men are white. The Troop guys fish out of necessity daily, just trying to catch enough food for dinner, while Rennie and her mother fish more for fun and to be peaceful. Despite Rennie not being allowed to speak to Peter she goes over to him while his father is away to lend some fishing advice. The two do not become friends really but they do share a mutual respect for each other despite their race differences.

This book is also one that can teach American history. This country has changed drastically over the years, but sometimes we forget that. Reading this book in class would not only benefit the students in a history but also a life lesson.

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**Paige Partlow says**

This book is about a girl who looks forward to fishing day. She learns how to comprehend her racial status in the world. She also learns how to get along with a Caucasian boy who fishes at the same time as she does. I think that this book would be good to use in the classroom during a conversation about race relations and history. This would also be a book that I would include in my classroom library due to its context.

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**Samantha Westall says**

A little girl is brave enough to offer help to someone who needs it badly.

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