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# Running Out Of Night



## Synopsis

A Children's Book Review Seven Middle Grade Books for African American History Month Pick Fans of *Elijah of Buxton*, *Trouble Don't Last*, and *Stealing Freedom* will be drawn to this tale of the incredible journey of an abused twelve-year-old white girl and an escaped slave girl who run away together and form a bond of friendship while seeking freedom. Every day is a misery for a nameless, motherless Southern girl who is treated cruelly by her pa and brothers. Her life changes forever when a runaway slave named Zenobia turns to her for help and shelter. Longing for her own freedom, the girl decides to run away, and she and Zenobia set off on a harrowing journey. Along the way, Zenobia names the girl Lark, after the bird, for her ability to mimic its song. Running by night, hiding by day, the girls are pursued by Lark's pa and brothers and by ruthless slave catchers. Brightwell, another runaway slave, joins them, and the three follow secret signs to a stop on the Underground Railroad. When the hideout is raided and Zenobia and Brightwell are captured, Lark sets out alone to rescue her friends. A CBC Notable Social Studies Trade Book of the Year An International Reading Association Best Chapter Book of the Year A Vermont Dorothy Canfield Fisher Children's Book Award Master List Selection A Great Stone Face Book Award Nominee A New Mexico's Land of Enchantment Book Award Selection A Pennsylvania Young Reader's Choice Awards Selection "Lush, detailed, total-immersion storytelling."--Kirkus Reviews "Distinguished by lively descriptions and dialogue."--Publisher's Weekly "A gripping historical novel . . . heart-stopping, heart-racing and eventually heart-easing."--Library Voice "Powerful debut novel."--International Reading Association "An essential read for those interested in American history."--San Louis Obispo Tribune "A gritty, engrossing tale."--Slo Coast Journal From the Hardcover edition.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 0830 (What's this?)

Paperback: 304 pages

Publisher: Yearling; Dgs edition (March 8, 2016)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0385378475

ISBN-13: 978-0385378475

Product Dimensions: 5.1 x 0.6 x 7.6 inches

Shipping Weight: 7 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.9 out of 5 stars See all reviews (35 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #202,155 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #28 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Difficult Discussions > Runaways #137 in Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Historical Fiction > United States > Colonial #213 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Difficult Discussions > Prejudice & Racism

Age Range: 9 - 12 years

Grade Level: 4 - 7

## Customer Reviews

My wife, Liz Krieger, a children's librarian for 38 years, and I wrote this review for my weekly history column in the San Luis Obispo County Tribune. We purchased three copies and had to buy eight more copies from to supply the eager readers at Hawthorne Elementary School where Liz volunteers: "A tall stand of orange-flowered jewelweed hummed with bumblebees. I yanked off a handful of the leaves and bent to the job of pickin off the knobbedly red fingers that circled the stem a few inches aboveground. "Emma looked on frog-eyed as I rubbed the jewelweed leaves and red fingers acrost my hands, neck, and face. "Gettin ready to pick some poison ivy. It don't never bother me, but I'm takin care jus in case it acts up on me this time." Lark is preparing one of the most appropriate acts of revenge in all literature against a slave bounty hunter in 1850's Northern Virginia. The poison ivy not only puts a "pox" on the bounty hunter, but proves to be an essential ticket for the Underground Railroad's escape toward freedom. Sharon Lovejoy's enthralling novel, *Running Out of Night* is the story of a motherless twelve-year-old white girl. Her "pa" and brothers call her "girl." She knows no other name and is forced to do their bidding as a starving servant. When "girl" encounters Zenobia, an escaped slave who has seen her own family separated and sold, the two bond. The girls run away together. Both understand that "girl" has a great advantage in the color of her skin, but share a life of misery. Hearing "girl" mimic the song of a lark, Zenobia names her after the bird. The pair are pursued by Pa, angry over the loss of "girl's" labor and eager for a large reward for a runaway slave of child bearing age.

When I first got this book from Random House I wasn't to sure about it to be honest. I am not a Huck Finn or Tom Sawyer fan because of the written dialect. It trips me up and I want to change it in my head. However I'm always one who will read a new book, especially a surprise book mail book! :) Plus I love her garden books so I was very interested to read her Children's Lit book. *Running Out of Night* was wonderful! LOVED it, and the way Sharon Lovejoy writes the dialect flowed and didn't bother me at all! *Running Out of Night* is a great historical fiction book that is perfect for upper

elementary ( 4th grade, 3rd grade strong readers) to middle school ( I would even say all the way to 8th grade). It is an emotional book with some touchy subjects so it might be a bit upsetting or not suited for tender hearted kids. Sharon does a wonderful job at writing about a very sad time in history. One I wish would have never happened. Running Out of Night grabbed me on the first page and held me captive till I finished it. Her writing style really had to envisioning all the world around these 2 girls on the journey to escape to freedom. They are on the run to escape slavery and abuse that both girls have experienced on a day to day basis from family members for one girl and her slave owners for another. Neither one of them has had a life really, or a true friend that they can lean on and count on. All that changes just when they need each other the most. This book is a book about friendship between Zenobia the slave girls that girl with no name saves. Zenobia names no name girl Lark and they become each others rock. Everyone needs that friend they can count on to have each others back. Especially during tough times, when you feel so alone and like no one is there for you.

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