

HOLIDAY HOUSE EDUCATOR'S GUIDE



A Flag for Juneteenth

by Kim Taylor

ABOUT THE BOOK

Expert quilter Kim Taylor shares a unique and powerful story about the celebration of the first Juneteenth, from the perspective of a young girl.

On June 19, 1865, in Galveston, General Gordon Granger of the Union Army delivered the message that African Americans in Texas were free. Since then, Juneteenth, as the day has come to be known, has steadily gained recognition throughout the United States. In 2020, a powerful wave of protests and demonstrations calling for racial justice and equality brought new awareness to the significance of the holiday.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Define “patchwork.” Why are quilts called “patchwork”? What is collage?
- Kim Taylor illustrates this story using “patchwork quilts” and hand stitching. How is this a form of collage? Discuss how this is an appropriate type of illustration for this particular book. Point out the hand stitching and note the colors of threads used. How does this create texture and contrast?



- A simile is figurative language that compares unrelated things using “as” or “like.” Discuss the following simile: “The scent of nutmeg and vanilla floated through our cabin . . . and landed as a smile on my face” (p. 3). How does Huldah have two reasons to smile on this particular day?
- Describe the sense of community among the freed slaves. Note the people have no faces. How does the illustrator reveal love, hope, and joy?
- What is Jacob Menard’s role in the community? Discuss the good news that he relates to the people. How does his news explain why Juneteenth is an important part of American history?
- What is a jubilee? Discuss why the people want a flag for their jubilee. What is the significance of the white star? Describe the freedom flag that Huldah receives for her birthday. Why does Huldah’s mother want her to sew the white star on her flag?
- At the end of the book, Huldah’s family walks into the woods and gazes at the moonlit sky. What does Huldah mean when she says, “we owned our freedom”?

ABOUT THE CREATOR

Photo Credit: Erskine Isaac



Kim Taylor is a speech-language pathologist and department supervisor at a large school for deaf children on Long Island. She is also an expert quilter whose works have been exhibited at several venues throughout the mid-Atlantic region. Taylor’s quilts reflect African American life, and she tells stories through her materials (visit Kim’s website to see her quilts). After researching the origins of the Juneteenth celebration, she created a Juneteenth story quilt, which she has exhibited and presented in dozens of local schools. Realizing that few teachers and students had ever heard of the holiday, she was moved to write this book.



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