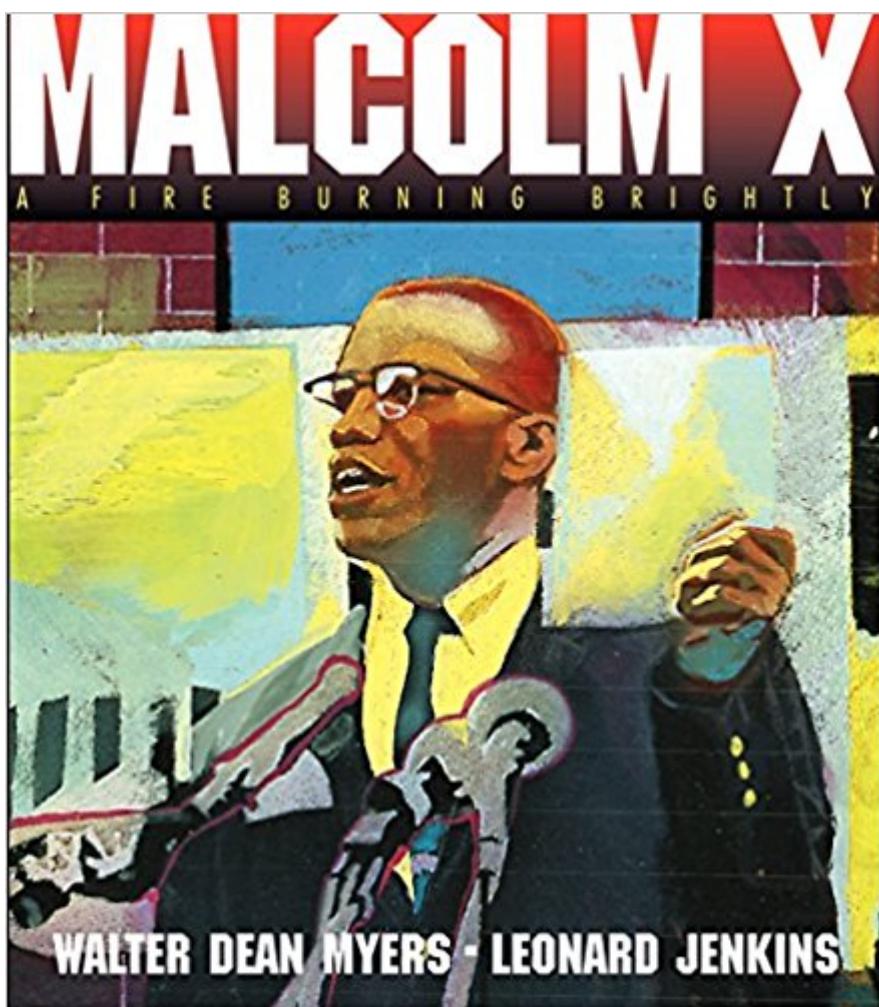


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# Malcolm X: A Fire Burning Brightly



## **Synopsis**

"I believe in recognizing every human being as a human being, neither white, black, brown, nor red." This was just one of the messages that Malcolm X brought to people of color. He lived by the idea that black people should demand equality by taking their lives and futures into their own hands. With guidance from the religious leader Elijah Muhammad, Malcolm became one of the most powerful leaders of the civil rights movement during the 1950s and 1960s, and his beliefs live on today. Award-winning author Walter Dean Myers, together with illustrator Leonard Jenkins, delivers a straightforward and compelling portrayal of one of America's most influential figures.

## **Book Information**

Lexile Measure: 960 (What's this?)

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Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars 60 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #127,197 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #64 in Books > Children's Books > Biographies > Political #124 in Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > History > United States > 1900s #229 in Books > Children's Books > Biographies > Multicultural

Age Range: 4 - 8 years

Grade Level: 3 and up

## **Customer Reviews**

"I am for truth, no matter who tells it. I'm for justice, no matter who it is for or against." These words were spoken by the controversial civil rights activist Malcolm X in 1965, the same year he was assassinated in Harlem, New York. Born Malcolm Little, Malcolm X spent much of his life speaking out for the equality of black people and the need for individuals to take personal responsibility for their own success in America. Originally from in Nebraska and raised in Michigan, Maalcolm moved to Boston when he was 14 years old. Boston and New York represented a whole new world to him, a world where black people seemed sharp, cool, and slick. The newly zoot-suited, snappy

hat-wearing Malcolm also fell into a Boston gang, and when he was 21 years old, was imprisoned for robbery. Once in prison, he became an avid reader and letter writer. His brother Reginald told him about the Nation of Islam, a political and religious organization dedicated to the betterment of black people, and he became a correspondent of the group's leader, the Honorable Elijah Muhammad. Upon his release in 1952 he became Malcolm X, as many black Muslims dropped their family names for "X," which represented a lost African name. As Malcolm X, he preached equality, and much to the dismay of many, separatism of blacks and whites. He felt strongly that a revolution was in order, that black people shouldn't rule out violence as an option to effect change. "You don't have a peaceful revolution," he said. "You don't have a turn the cheek revolution. There's no such thing as a nonviolent revolution!" In 1964, he broke with the Nation of Islam and went to Mecca. And it wasn't until 1965 that he came to a gentler, less divisive approach to justice: "I believe in recognizing every human being as a human being--neither white, black, brown, or red." Walter Dean Myers is an award-winning writer of fiction, nonfiction, and poetry for young people, and has penned a masterful, even-handed biography of Malcolm X for young readers. Leonard Jenkins, illustrator of Sunflower Island by Carol Greene, brings his bold, beautiful, collage-style paintings to the life of a man whose fire burned brightly and went out too quickly. A chronology in the back of the book marks the important dates in the life of Malcolm X; quotations trace his spiritual and philosophical development. (Ages 8 and older) --Karin Snelson --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Grade 2-5-A compelling account of the life of one of the most controversial and misunderstood men of the 20th century. From the troubled childhood of Malcolm Little to the assassination of Malcolm X, Myers shows the influences on and the personal strengths of this fiery leader. The succinct, straightforward text is suitable in content and tone for younger children, while the picture-book format provides accessibility for older reluctant readers as well. Jenkins's dark, expressive paintings convey Malcolm's inner turmoil and spiritual growth, providing a perfect blend of well-written text and well-executed illustrations. Myers includes a chronology of events in Malcolm's life and intersperses quotations throughout the text in larger, bold print. A first purchase for any library. Eunice Weech, M. L. King Elementary School, Urbana, IL Copyright 2000 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Bought this to read with my 6 year old and it is amazing. In public schools all you really here about is MLK so I was really eager to teach him about other revolutionaries in a child friendly way but

without sugar coating the freedoms that we had to fight for. It's a great book to teach self confidence in our African American children as well as to get other cultures to understand different African American civil rights fighters.

My son and I discussed the civil rights movement at length and when his teacher wanted the class to do a report on a civil rights activist, I wanted him to go beyond the standard MLK. So since he is a mature 12yr old, I read the other reviews and took a chance on introducing him to the more complex character of Malcolm X. My son is not a big reader but this one he couldn't put down. It also gave us a lot to talk about in ref to evolving as a person. Changing opinions and positions and what are the costs involved with that. I strongly recommend this book.

Bought this as a present for a friend's daughter. It was enjoyed over spring break. The book used nice pictures and easy to understand wordings.

Great introduction to Malcolm X for young readers. I'd recommend it for grades three and up. Read it to my fifth graders, and they generally understood his beliefs and how his impact on the Civil Rights Movement. Myers doesn't leave out any of the controversy and gives readers the truth in an accessible way. We had several discussions about whether violence is necessary, how leaders can inspire people and how leaders can change - all still very relevant issues.

This is a good book for adolescent readers. I enjoyed it however it is meant for young adults. It lacks the detail you would find in an autobiography or a biography written for adult readers. However, very good in giving the history and general information of this man and the happenings of the era.

perfect

What can you say about anything Malcolm X?!

I really enjoy this book. It has been a great way to introduce my students to Malcolm X. The writing is engaging and very accessible for all readers. I would definitely recommend this for teachers who are looking for books to engage reluctant readers.

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