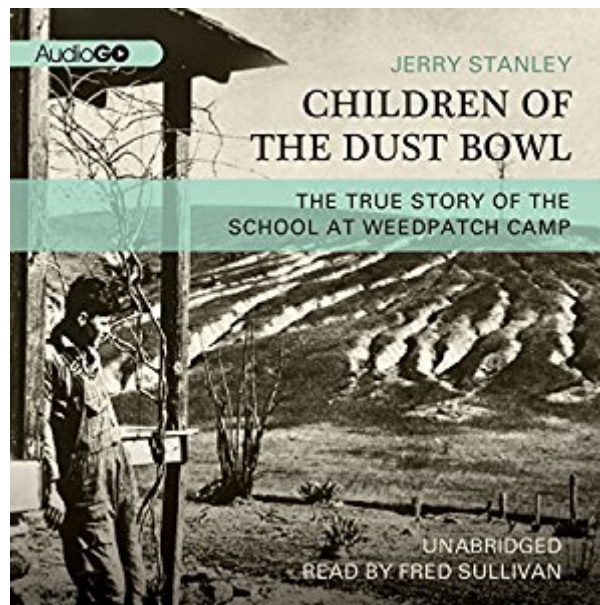




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Children Of The Dust Bowl: The True Story Of The School At Weedpatch Camp



Synopsis

This is the compelling story of the "Okie" migration to California and of the construction and life of a remarkable school at a farm workers' camp. This memorable book provides a glimpse of a neglected period of American history and tells a story of prejudice being transformed into acceptance and despair into hope.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

What an interesting, but depressing book. It accentuates how little human beings have evolved to this day. If not for the exception of a few good people, those less fortunate would be left to die. I'm not a big history buff, but this book took me to the panhandle. I suffered along with the people presented in this tale and journeyed with them to what they thought would be salvation. I suffered their angst when they realized life was no better here for them and rejoiced when the superintendent took an interest in one group of migrants and helped them learn to better themselves and life around them. An amazing gentleman and amazing, hard-working, earnest migrants. Their unfailing determination in the face of poverty, illness, and bigotry is a lesson to us all to this day. Tons of photographs bring the story to life and help break up big chunks of text. Older children will find this book fascinating!

Overwhelming! So many things about this book stirred deep emotion in me. This story related to the people who left the Dust Bowl in search of a better life during the Depression and traveled Route 66 to Southern California. The deprivations and discrimination they suffered touched me deeply. I was shocked to read of the hard-heartedness of many Californians; I didn't want to believe it. One of the

wonderful things about this book is the story of one man who made up his mind to make a difference for the "Okies." Using the attitudes of the majority he found a way to acceptance and inclusion for those who had been rejected and shunned. My parents were young adults during the "dirty thirties" and lived in the Dust Bowl. Since their destination was not California, but Oregon, this is a part of the story I had never heard. Thank you Jerry Stanley for telling this amazing story and including so many revealing pictures. Marjorie Eldred, Author of *Seizing the Treasure: 101 Nuggets to Warm Your Heart, Journey From Addiction to Freedom, and Blooms, Blunders and Blessings*.
http://www..com/s/ref=nb_sb_noss?url=search-alias%3Dstripbooks&field-keywords=Books+by+Marjorie++Eldred&rh=n%3A283155%2Ck%3ABooks+by+Marjorie++Eldred

The writing in this book is excellent, flowing evenly from page to page. Many of the photographs within are pure art, having been taken by Russell Lee, Dorothea Lange, and others. These two people are the Pieter Bruegel and Thomas Hart Benton (depicting plain, everyday folk) of American photography. This book relates a small chunk of American history, to be sure, but more than that, it relates universal themes of the human condition. Overall, the book relates the brutal conditions of the dust bowl, the migration over the mountains and desert, taunting and prejudice from settled Californians, and eventual attainment of excellence, as revealed by the construction and maintenance of the Weedpatch School, which eventually became a model school in the community. My 5 1/2 year old enjoyed reading every page, and found particular mirth in the unusual daily chore that the dust bowl children did with their cows. The description of this unusual chore is worth the price of the book. What was this daily chore? One way to find out is to borrow or purchase this book.

For those of us interested in the Dust Bowl's history and legacy, this book details and examines the children of this well-known migration from the Plains to the West in search of food, work, and shelter. Ironically, if you watched the *Grapes of Wrath* where you would see for yourself how they portrayed the children in the camps as forgotten, ignored, discriminated against for being Okies. They were all called that while their parents searched for jobs in the daytime. The Weedpatch Camp in Bakersfield, California is an example of how a government run camp was different where it allowed all the migrants to live more like human beings. The book builds up to the school where it was in existence for five years. It was so impressive to the community that non-residents wanted their children to attend too. This book is a great read for children and adults about the Dust Bowl, the migration, and California living in the 1930s. You would be very impressed to get it.

I teach special education, and I was hoping that this book would tell the story of the Dust Bowl in pictures. It is too difficult for my students to enjoy reading, but the photos are great.

Much has been said about this book. All I can say is, "wow" what a book. I shed bittersweet tears as I read this wonderful book. Although I never lived in Weedpatch, I was born in 1935 to migrant Arkies. We lived in the Linnell Camp near Visalia. This story is my life. Oh how I could relate. This book was like a motion picture, that I was in, and I traveled right down the road with it. I don't know if a person could relate if they haven't lived this life, but, I know that this book is so well written and illustrated that surely a person with a heart and caring spirit should be able to follow this book even if they could never imagine the deep down hardships, how the kids and families stuck together, bonded and had a good time. A lot of us could add our names to the long list of Weedpatch kids that became a success; it only takes hope, dreams, a longing for a better tomorrow, and a can do spirit. It is always an added benefit to have a man like Mr. Hart to believe in you. I loved this man and only wish he were still alive so that I could thank him for caring and acting on those cares.

I purchased this book for my Father. He actually stopped reading another book to read this one and thoroughly enjoyed it.

A perfect book to share with the reading of The Grapes of Wrath, of course. I wanted to applaud the building of the schools and pool. I laughed when the surrounding areas then wanted their kids to go to "migrant" school.

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